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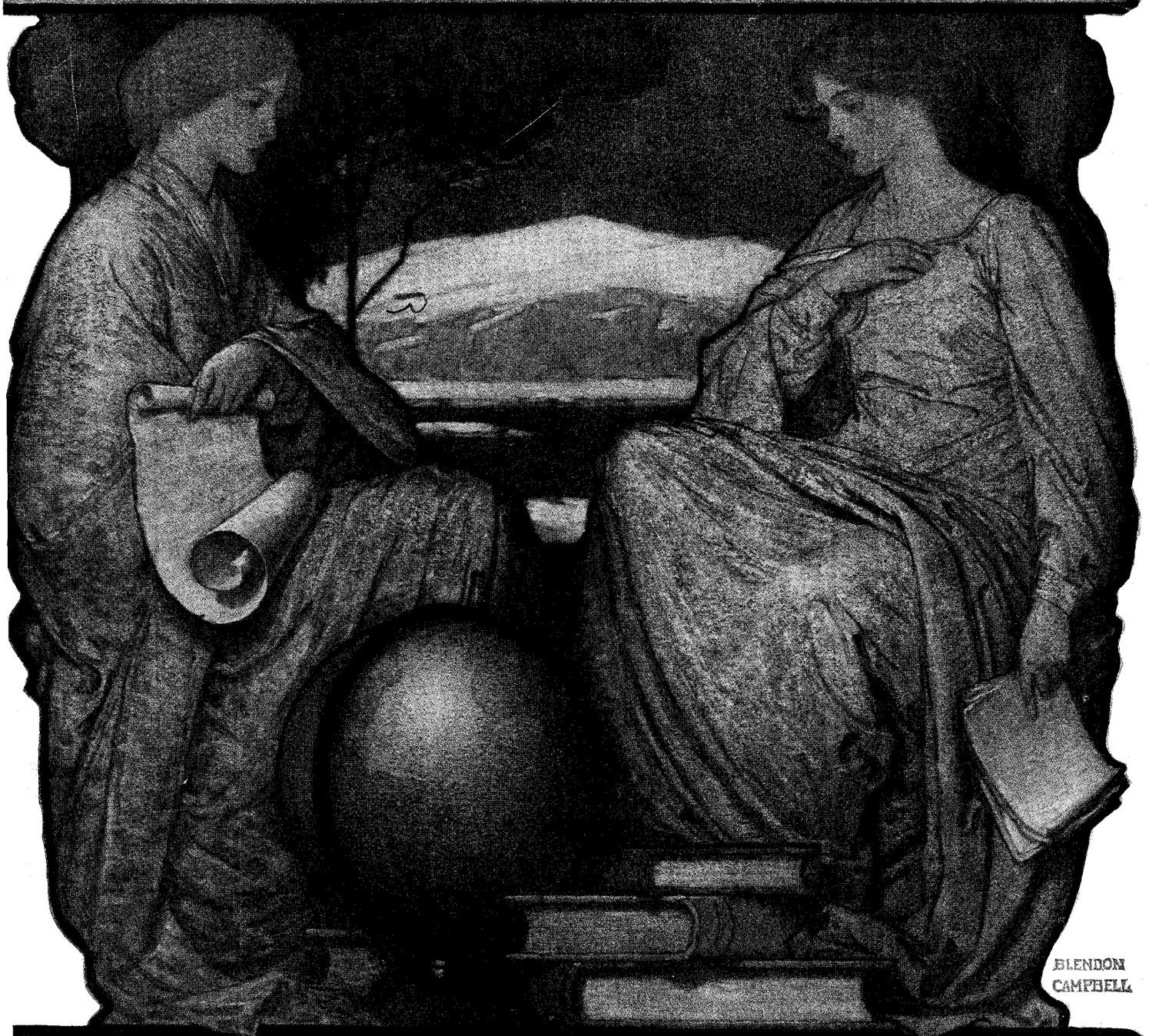
PUBLIC OPINION, combined July 7th 1906, with THE LITERARY DIGEST



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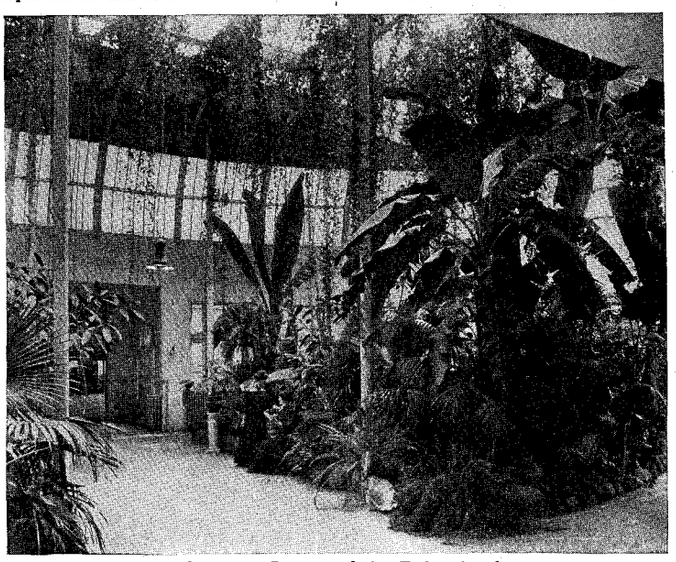

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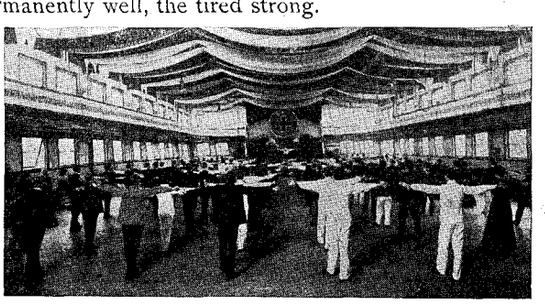

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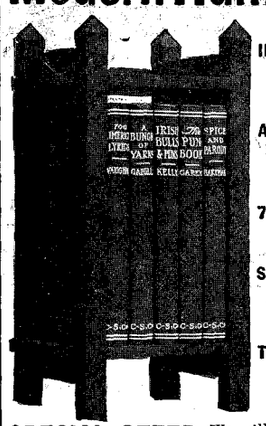

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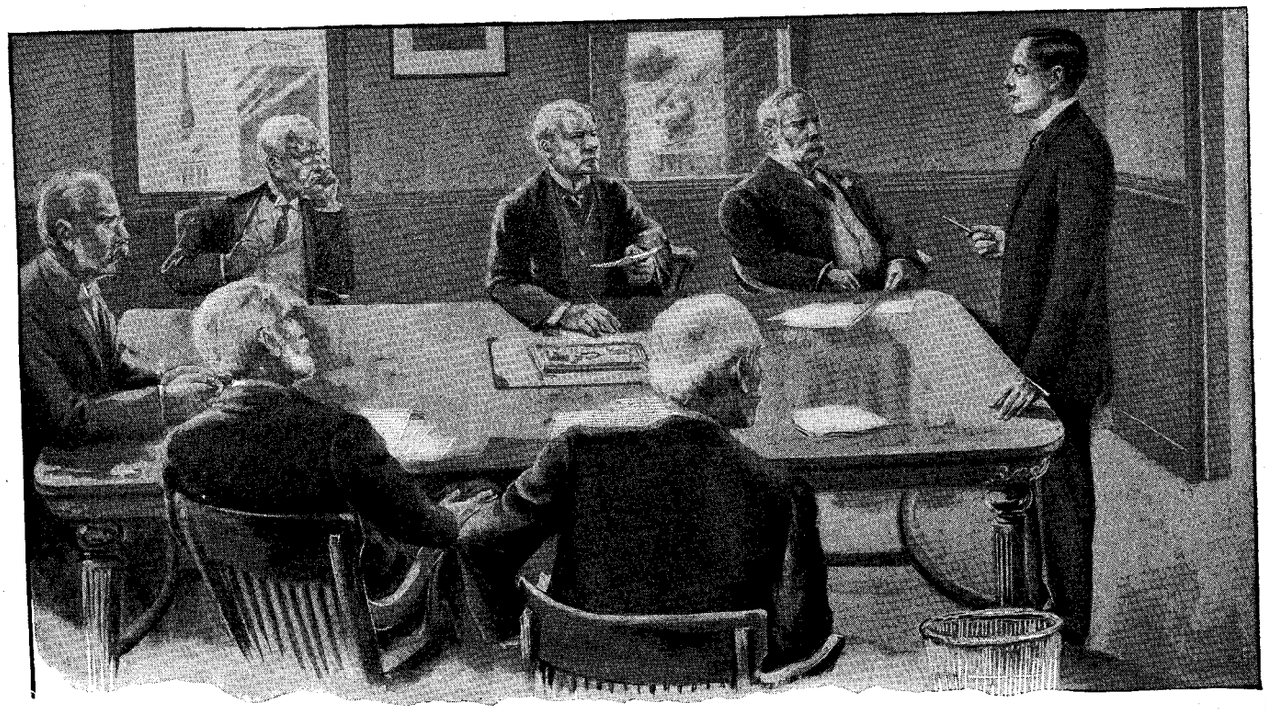

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TOPICS OF THE DAY.

HARDSHIPS OF PROSPERITY.

ONLY a few weeks ago the press of the entire country were lifting a pean of exultation over our national prosperity as revealed in recent statistics—a prosperity so amazing, according to the editor of *The Manufacturers' Record*, that we can not measure the meaning of it "until we learn to think in billions." But of late, in lieu of the joyous chorus, we are beginning to hear occasional lonely voices raised in misgiving and perturbation. Most notable among these is the utterance of the retiring Secretary of the Treasury, Leslie M. Shaw, who, speaking at a Washington banquet, said that "We who pray should ask God to save us from any increased prosperity; we have all we can stand." Awed by the "appalling stature" the country has reached, Mr. Shaw added with evident apprehension that he "did not know what was going to become of us." His pessimistic presentation of the fact that "we are growing more crops than we can harvest, and harvesting more than we can haul to market" suggests to one facetious paper the advisability of public prayers in the churches for bad weather at harvest time. Another admonishing voice which has caught the attention of the press is that of Justice David J. Brewer, who declares that "our great expansion and rapid growth in population and resource are developing a habit of extravagance," which has led us most unwisely to discount the future. Following these hints, the press have shown a tendency to lay most of our national embarrassments at the door of the nation's material well-being. Thus the present "money stringency," it is alleged, is due to the boom in speculation, itself a result of wide-spread prosperity. "The condition of all-around apparent prosperity is the most ominous disclosed in our annals," remarks the New York *Sun*, discussing the situation as it affects the railroads in particular. We read further:

"The last quarter of the year has seen over $100,000,000 added to the wages of railroad employees (likewise the greatest decrease in the efficiency of labor ever noted in this or any other country). The record of the prices of railroad supplies, rails alone excepted, during the year shows the greatest advance ever known in a like period. . . . The roads are between Mr. Roosevelt and the deep sea. The gross earnings are suffocating them, the net earnings are steadily vanishing, and behind all is the specter of an intolerable usurpation which means only bankruptcy and disaster."

The same paper compares the country to a youngster who has eaten too much jam and yet is hungry for more. "As a nation we are gorged with prosperity," it asserts severely, but with evident concern. "Is our prosperity getting a little too prosperous?" suggests *The Wall Street Journal*, while the New York *World* sets graphically before us the condition of general congestion with which the land is groaning. Thus:

"The railroads struggle helplessly under the general congestion of freight while the Western farmers' grain lies rotting in heaps and their coal-bins stare vacantly at the bleak Dakota sky. The car-shops and locomotive works are behind with their business, with two-year rush orders ahead. Prices keep mounting higher, altho there is too much of everything and because too many people are in a hurry to use it. Wages are being raised and labor is scarce; there is more work than willing hands can do. . . . And poor Congress is swamped under the flood of advice from the White House, and, wearied and worn from the frantic experience, scatters for the holidays with its bundles of unread executive messages following as excess baggage over the congested railroads."

The Philadelphia *Telegraph* thinks that the chief menace of the present prosperity threatens our financial system. It says:

"We are tremendously overtaxing a system designed and established for about one-tenth part of the service we now force upon it. The strain is terrific, and it is by our neglect to adjust our monetary facilities to the immense and imperative demands of these overwhelmingly prosperous times that the threatened failure may be precipitated. It is not often in this world that people are put in peril by too great a supply of the good things of life, but Secretary Shaw evidently thinks that is our condition to-day."

The Evening Sun (New York) is amused at the guilty manner with which the nation hears itself "convicted of prosperity," and ventures to amend Mr. Shaw's words as follows: "Instead of having all the prosperity we can stand, some of us have more than others can stand." The Kansas City *Star* finds Mr. Shaw's distress both pathetic and dramatic—smacking, in fact, of "the climax of a Sardou melodrama." We read:

"For a long time Mr. Shaw has in a measure assumed responsibility for the country's prosperity. He has been the most assertive, most aggressive, most persistent champion of high protection. He has attributed prosperity to the tariff. He has inveighed against the very thought of revising the protective duties, lest even meddling with them might disturb the country's business. And now he is overwhelmed with the awful fruits of his zeal. He is appalled by the degree to which the nation has prospered. His alarm has been intensified by the fact that sixty million dollars' worth of automobiles have been manufactured in the United States in the past year. He seems to be filled with fear that soon everybody will be speeding about in motor-cars and nobody will be left to be run over. He asks prayers for the abatement of prosperity."

The New York *American* thinks the suggestion that we are "too prosperous" worthy only of derision. Thus:

"Is a nation too prosperous when millions of children are working in mines and mills and factories, AND LOSING THEIR CHANCE IN LIFE?

"Is a nation too prosperous WHEN HALF OF ALL THE SCHOOL-BOYS ARE TAKEN FROM SCHOOL AND PUT TO WORK BEFORE THEY ARE TWELVE YEARS OLD?

"Is a nation too prosperous when out of one hundred boys sent to the public school ONLY THREE CAN GO INTO THE HIGH SCHOOL AND FINISH?

"Is a nation too prosperous when a law must be passed to prevent young women from working all night long AND WHEN

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THAT LAW IS SHAMEFULLY DECLARED UNCONSTITUTIONAL BY JUDGES ON THE SUPREME BENCH?

"Of a hundred mothers in America ninety at least worry about their household bills. The gas bills and the meat bills cause sleepless hours. The price of milk is beyond the reach of mothers with young children. The cost of ice causes the death of thousands.

"That may mean 'too much prosperity' for the Ice Trust and the Milk Trust. But, Mr. Shaw, IT DOES NOT MEAN TOO MUCH PROSPERITY FOR THE AMERICAN PEOPLE."

INADEQUACY OF OUR RAILWAY SYSTEMS.

A FUEL famine which brings hardship and suffering to more than a hundred cities and towns in North Dakota; millions of bushels of grain rotting beside the tracks throughout the Northwest; the Texas cotton crop held back from a waiting market; and even in the East a partial paralysis of freight traffic—these are among the facts which bear witness to the failure of our vast railroad systems to meet the demands of the "rush hour" in interstate commerce. The coal famine is due, not to a miners' strike nor to any actual scarcity of the commodity, but to the failure of the railroads to distribute properly the output of the mines. The grain rots in open bins under its covering of snow because the railroads fail to carry it quickly enough to the market. It is the congestion of prosperity, say those who view the situation philosophically. But the people immediately affected are impatient of generalizations, and show a tendency to look more closely into the question of blame and responsibility. Already the subject has been taken up by the Interstate Commerce Commission, which will make its recommendations to Congress. While the railroad companies acknowledge that to a great extent the conditions complained of exist, they are not unanimous in their explanations. President Elliott, of the Northern Pacific, asserts, according to a dispatch, that "the difficulty in Montana, Idaho, and Washington is that not enough coal is being produced to supply promptly the increased domestic trade and at the same time furnish the railroad with fuel for her operation of its trains," while "in North Dakota and Minnesota the difficulty in part is due to trying to move too much fuel in a very short time, and in part to an increase in the consumption of fuel that is greater than the increase in facilities for handling, moving, and storing; also to a general increase in the movement of miscellaneous commodities, which can not be ignored without subjecting ourselves to a charge of discrimination."

And here is the statement made by President Hill, of the Great Northern, in a message to Chairman Knapp, of the Interstate Commerce Commission:

"The coal scarcity in North Dakota is not due to want of cars. Thousands of empty cars have been moving from the head of Lake Superior to the grain-fields during the fall, and coal ordered by local dealers has only been sufficient to supply from day to day. During the last two weeks there have been very heavy snow-storms, with the thermometer below zero. Snow-drifts around stations from six to fifteen feet deep have temporarily blocked railroad. Special trains of coal having right of way over all other traffic are being sent, and road is being opened as fast as conditions will allow. The fuel difficulty is temporary, and is being rapidly remedied. The general condition applying to all traffic is due to the rapid increase on tonnage to be moved. Owing to difficulties in disposing of freight at terminals, the average car movement varies from fifteen to thirty miles a day. Our increase in locomotives and cars since last spring is from 15 to 17 per cent. in number and more than that in capacity, which, with reasonable opportunity to move, would amply take care of the traffic. Inability to secure labor at any price has badly delayed the completion of additional main tracks and terminals. We have orders for new locomotives to be delivered between now and June 1 for 25 per cent. increase in capacity, and 6,000 freight-cars, to be delivered between January and September; capacity of the latter, 280,000 tons. However, permanent relief can only come through increase in double track and terminal facilities. We are now arranging for $60,000,000, covering next two years, to provide additional tracks, terminal equipment, and new lines where traffic is heaviest."

Later, testifying in person before the commission, Mr. Hill asserted that in order to provide for handling the enormous traffic, which increased 110 per cent. from 1895 to 1905, they should spend $1,100,000,000 a year for the next five years, a total of $5,500,000,000, and that there is not that much money available in this country. He pointed out that owing to shortage in sidings, switches, yards, and terminals, the average distance traversed by a freight-car is only sixteen miles a day. On this point the Chicago *Record-Herald* remarks:

"Commissioner Lane puts it at twenty-three miles a day, but even that, as he says, is so absurdly insufficient that we might as well have the wagon-trains and oxen back again. There is no connection between the alleged shortage of cars and the snail's

CALLED.

TEXAS—"See here, Joe, I don't want to see you playing with that fellow again." —Indianapolis *News*.

MME. TEXAS—"Phew! Do I smell kerosene?" —Morris in the Spokane *Spokesman-Review*.

EVIL COMMUNICATIONS CORRUPT GOOD MANNERS.

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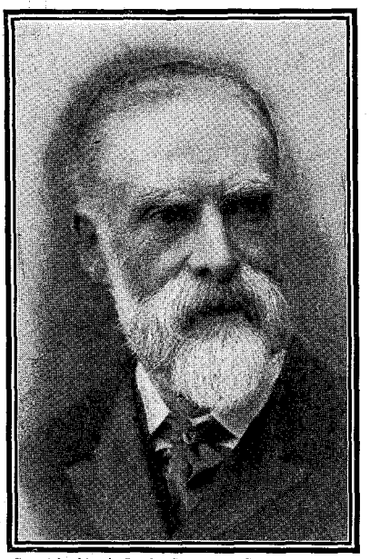
pace of the movement of the cars that are available. The latter anomaly certainly points to inadequate facilities in more than one other direction.

"It is quite probable, therefore, that the investigation of the congestion and its causes may lead to an investigation of much larger scope, extending to the question of the supply of capital for railway construction and betterment."

President Harahan, of the Illinois Central, on the other hand, maintains that the freight congestion "is not a question of tracks, but of cars and locomotives and prompt handling by the carriers." President Stickney, of the Great Western, blames the shippers and buyers for not "sensibly and properly" distributing their business over the entire year instead of massing it in a few months. In view of this disagreement among experts the New York *Evening Post* suggests that probably all the causes named contribute to the situation. A suspicion that the alleged shortage is only a blind, supplying an excuse for profitable discrimination in freights, is hinted at by a few papers. *The Journal of Commerce*, however, finds many indications that the blame rests largely with the shippers. Thus we read:



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THE NEW BRITISH AMBASSADOR TO THE UNITED STATES.

The Rt. Hon. James Bryce leaves the British Cabinet to represent his country at Washington. He is widely known in this country as the author of "The American Commonwealth," and it is asserted by the New York *Tribune* that he knows America "better than many of our own legislators and administrators."

"There was notice of a reduced rate on the railroads for carrying coal, which the law now requires to be given thirty days before it takes effect, and it is said that the dealers were waiting for this before laying in sufficient supplies to meet the demand. It was a bad time to give notice of such a change, and both the railroads and the people were inconvenienced by the delay in giving the necessary orders for coal. . . . . .

"We heard in the early fall about the disposition of farmers to hold back their grain on the assumption that they could get better prices by not rushing it to market. It may be that this policy prevented railroads from distributing the traffic over a longer time and concentrated the demand for cars late in the season beyond their capacity for furnishing them. There are many indications that shippers are much at fault for the car shortage, not only in delaying shipments, but in being slow about loading and about unloading, using cars an unnecessary length of time on side-tracks for storage. It is quite possible that the fault is not entirely with the railroads, and investigation should not be one-sided."

The St. Louis *Globe Democrat* sees in the present failure of the railroads to meet the demands of business a salient argument for improved water-ways. We read:

"Congress should lose no time in shaping adequate measures to develop the transportation of the country by land and water. There might be such a thing as a 'prosperity panic' in a time of immense crops, buoyantly active business, unexampled immigration, and an overflowing treasury. In the regions where coal famines are threatened, the people are all at work and have plenty of money. Yet they are in a fix almost desperate because the railroads are unable to do their hauling even in such necessities as coal, a bulky article that could best be carried by water anyway if the channels of the country were improved. The cry for coal is something to which Congress can not shut its ears while it busies itself with matters of infinitely less importance than transportation, whose future rests largely with the Rivers and Harbors bill. A shortage of transportation is the chronic condition, and it is vain to deal merely with shortage of cars or shortage of railroads. The business men of the United States should see the point and act together for permanent relief."

A rumor that the Federal Government might find itself compelled "to take charge of the physical operation of railroads" during the present crisis was followed by a prompt official denial. But about the same time, it is alleged, the situation showed marked signs of improvement. Says the New York *World:*

"Federal interference in such a crisis is indeed very wrong; it is disturbing to the business interests; very eminent authorities, in fact, are firmly convinced that it is unconstitutional. It involves enough complicated points of law to keep the Supreme Court busy for several years and the people of Dakota freezing for several winters. But it works merely on suggestion.

"Even if Mr. Hill will not admit the fact, somehow it starts coal-trains running where they did not run before."

WELCOMING MR. BRYCE.

THE perturbation of the British over the loss of prestige suffered by their embassy at Washington was noted in these columns, in quotations from British papers, several weeks ago. The German and French ambassadors had won the President's affection by their congeniality of tastes and temperament. It was felt that something out of the common must be done. The old talk that has been heard for years, about the famous men we send to England and the unknown men they have sent to Washington, was revived in earnest, and now the rooted regard of the British for precedent has been torn up and thrown to the winds, and a man known to fame, but not to diplomacy, is named to represent one great branch of the Anglo-Saxon people at the capital of the other—James Bryce. Hitherto, also, in British diplomacy, as the New York *Evening Mail* points out, "the first-rate men were reserved for Paris, Berlin, St. Petersburg, Vienna, and Constantinople," while "Washington meant promotion only to diplomats stationed at the capitals of little countries." But this appointment of Mr. Bryce, taking him from his position in the Cabinet, where he is Chief Secretary for Ireland, is, in the opinion of this paper, "the greatest compliment ever paid to this nation by Great Britain." And to the New York *Evening Sun* it "marks the official recognition by a British Prime Minister, and incidentally a British sovereign, of the fact that the place is the most important one in the diplomatic service of the empire."

It is remarked by some papers, as by the New York *Times*, that "Mr. Bryce will be the same kind of Ambassador to Washington that we have been in the habit of sending to London." That is, he will not be a professional diplomatist who takes this appointment merely as a stepping-stone to something more attractive, but "he will be a man from the outside who may be expected to prove an acceptable person, not only to our Government, but to our people." That his welcome in this country will be enthusiastic has been apparent from the unanimous indorsement extended him by the press since the first mention of his name for the office.

"He is eminent as an author, distinguished as an orator, formidable as a debater, admirable as an executive," says the Brooklyn *Eagle*, "and head and shoulders above any of his English contemporaries as a student of American political and social conditions." All of which makes it "difficult to imagine how any man could be better equipped than he to discharge the duties of the embassy at Washington." In this unqualified indorsement the press of all shades of thought apparently agree. The New York *World* asserts that "no other man in England, with the possible exception of John Morley, is so highly respected in this country for his talents and achievements at the bar, in literature and in politics, and no man better understands American politics and affairs than Mr. Bryce." "In fact," adds the New York *Tribune*, organ of

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the American Ambassador to Great Britain, "we are inclined to think that he knows America better than most Americans themselves know it, better even than many of our own legislators and administrators." The public life of Mr. Bryce is thus summarized in this paper:

"Mr. Bryce has never before held a place in the diplomatic service, his nearest approach thereto having been a few years of duty as Under Secretary for Foreign Affairs. He has been known as a barrister, as a professor of civil law at Oxford for many years, and as the author of several highly important books, among them a history of 'The Holy Roman Empire' and a monumental treatise, historical, descriptive, and critical, on 'The American Commonwealth.' For more than a quarter of a century, however, he has been in Parliament, and he has been connected more or less prominently with the Government during most of the time when the Liberal party has been in office. In this latter service he has addrest himself efficiently to a considerable range and diversity of legislative and administrative affairs, so that he is to be esteemed as an expert in politics and civics as well as in law and letters."

A WEEK OF PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGES.

WHEN President Roosevelt prodded Congress with five special messages in the course of last week, that august body, if we accept the testimony of the Washington correspondents, made no secret of its annoyance over such unwonted activity. Humorous references by Senators and Representatives to the President's "message habit," it is said, are in many instances tinged with a certain vague resentment. The New York *Evening Mail*, recalling the tendency of some natures to be irritated "when they see another man doing so much work, and doing it as if he enjoyed it," explains the resentment of Congress as "a frank expression of indolence in the face of an industry of which it is forced to take notice." The President's burst of strenuosity in the face of the tradition that nothing beyond the passage of the appropriation bills should be done at the "short session," suggests the same paper, will meet with the approval of the country at large, despite the unappreciative attitude of Congress. "The theory that statesmen should draw two years' pay for one year's work," it argues, "was not adopted on the initiative of the people, even if they seem to have acquiesced in its application." Moreover, "it has operated in the past to postpone, pigeonhole, and suppress a good deal of important legislation." Not only in the number of his messages and the rapidity with which one followed upon the heels of another—three reaching Congress in one day—did the President's achievement break all records; his message on Panama shattered, or created, yet another precedent, inasmuch as it was illustrated. His other communications dealt with the public-land frauds, the navy personnel, the Japanese question in San Francisco, and the Brownsville affray.

THE PANAMA MESSAGE.

Press and Congress are apparently at one in the opinion that the Panama message is a necessary and illuminating document; but having delivered it, Congress would have been glad to have the President rest for a time on his laurels. "It is a 'story' which any star reporter might well feel proud to have written, and it bears all the ear-marks of accurate reporting," says the Richmond *Times-Dispatch;* while the Baltimore *News* claims to sum up its fifteen thousand words in the brief sentence "all is well at Panama." The Boston *Herald* hails it as "much the most graphic and interesting report that has been given to the public" regarding the canal, and the New York *World* can not deny that it presents vividly to the imagination that region "where every prospect pleases and only Poultney Bigelow is vile." "One of the most entertaining and convincing reports that have ever been set to the credit of American journalism," remarks the New York *Evening Mail*, which dubs the President "special correspondent of the American people." Among the most interesting features of the message are the statement as to the excellent sanitary conditions now prevailing in a once deadly region, the plea for Chinese contract labor, the promise of a "decoration" for those taking part in the great undertaking, and the outburst of indignation against the "slanderers and libelers" whose "outrageous accusations" constitute "a gross libel upon a body of public servants who, for trained intelligence, expert ability, high character, and devotion to duty have never been excelled anywhere." The undertaking, says Mr. Roosevelt, is "one of the giant feats of the ages," a task of "epic nature," and some mistakes are inevitable. But he maintains that "this country has never made a better investment than the $40,000,000 which it paid to the French company for work and betterments, including especially the Panama Railroad." On this point the Milwaukee *Free Press* remarks, but without any hint of contradiction:

"The United States has made some exceptionally good business investments, notable when it bought the Territory of Louisiana of Napoleon the Great, paying a price so small, or that would be considered so small to-day, as to be ridiculous; and when it bought Alaska from the Czar of Russia, in 1867, for less than half what Louisiana cost; and when it got Porto Rico and the Philippines and Guam from Spain for a somewhat less sum than it paid for both of the other Territories."

Of the sanitary conditions in the Canal Zone the President says: "The Isthmus had been a byword for deadly unhealthfulness. Now, after two years of our occupation, the conditions as regards sickness and the death-rate compare favorably with reasonably healthy localities in the United States." This suggests to the New York *World* the possibility of a general redemption of the tropics. We read:

"Only a few years ago economists and sanitarians looked upon

A MUDDY STREET IN PANAMA IN PROCESS OF BEING PAVED WITH VITRIFIED BRICK LAID UPON CONCRETE.

FRONT STREET, COLON, WHERE THE PAVING HAS BEEN COMPLETED FROM THE PANAMA RAILROAD-STATION.

ILLUSTRATIONS FROM THE FIRST PICTORIAL PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE.

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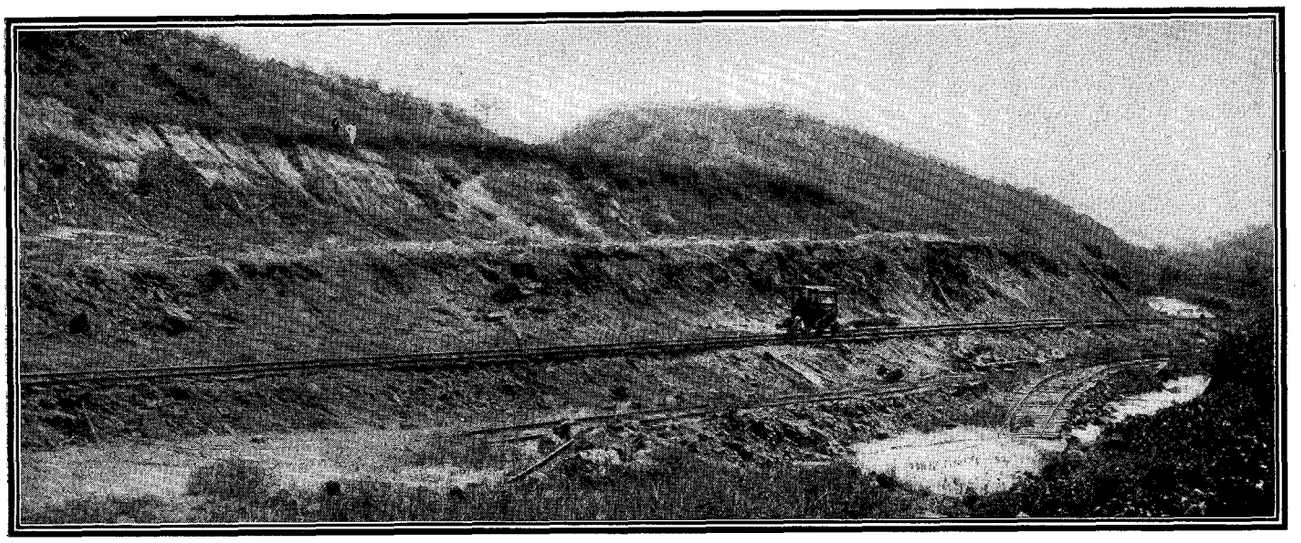


VIEW IN CULEBRA CUT. THE TWO MEN ARE STANDING AT THE LEVEL REACHED BY THE FRENCH. THE MOTOR CAR MARKS THE PRESENT AMERICAN LEVEL, SIXTY-FIVE FEET BELOW. THIS IS FROM THE PRESIDENT'S ILLUSTRATED MESSAGE TO CONGRESS.

life in the tropics as inevitably taxed with a comparatively high death-rate. Their conclusions were based on two hundred years of experience. Climate was charged with a major part of the danger, and exposure as well as lack of adaptation of temperate-zone peoples to tropical conditions was made responsible for the rest.

"The entrance of the United States as a political factor and commercial power into the tropics, which began with 1898 in the Spanish-American war, has modified much of these learned conclusions. Havana, formerly regarded as the breeder of tropical scourges, has become a health resort in comparison with its former condition under Spanish rule. Manila has likewise been changed from a pestiferous port to a place of health and safety. Last but not least, the two years' experience of the United States on the Isthmus of Panama has changed a larger area so radically as wholly to upset the older calculations. Here a new standard of tropical living has been inaugurated on the basis of superior sanitation. . . . . .

"If the Isthmian Canal Commission had nothing more than this to show for its two years' work, it would be entitled to the world's gratitude. It has demonstrated that the limits of investments in the tropics are by no means set by climatic conditions, but that with the right kind of engineering and administrative talent devoted to enforcing a sanitary standard of living and maintaining a working organization which guarantees safety, both labor and capital may find an almost unlimited field of expansion."

The President advocates a change from a seven-headed commission in charge of the canal to a single commissioner with the necessary heads of departments under him. Of the proposed order of merit he says:

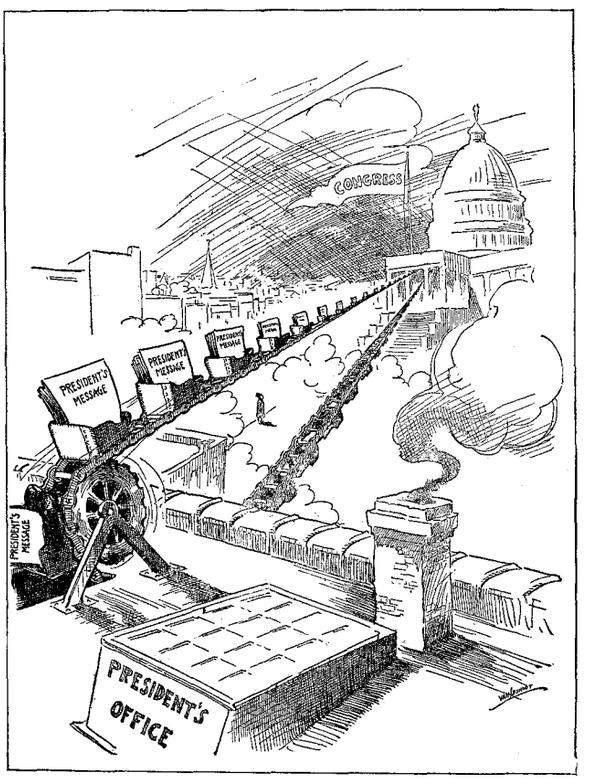
"A badge is to be given to every American citizen who for a specified time has taken part in this work; for participation in it will hereafter be held to reflect honor upon the man participating just as it reflects honor upon a soldier to have belonged to a mighty army in a great war for righteousness."

The Chicago *News* comments on the novelty of medals for civilian service. The New York *Sun*, moved to facetiousness, remarks:

"Appetite comes with eating. This P. C. badge will breed in civil, military, and naval servants of the Government the passion for similar things of beauty. We see letter-carriers with silver horns (bugles) on their coats; the Government bug-hunters with pocket-gophers in enamel; Cortelyou with a horn of plenty; Wilson with a wheat-sheaf; Joe Cannon with a silver hammer; members of Congress with a silver windmill; Marshal Abernathy, of Oklahoma, with a silver wolf; General Grosvenor and others of the great rejected with an ormolu lemon; department clerks with a miniature of Secretary Shaw on their coat-sleeves; janitors with a brass club rampant on a broom, and so on. The field for orders and invention is large. While the designers and goldsmiths and silversmiths are laboring, possibly some now obscure Dryasdusts will tell a nervous world just where and how, outside of his own abundant merit, Mr. Roosevelt gets the authority to establish an order of Isthmian merit and to pin upon the happy bosoms of the deserving his badge of honor."

PUBLIC LANDS AND NAVAL PERSONNEL.

On the same day Congress received two short presidential messages on legislative proposals, one of them in particular involving a certain amount of controversy. With regard to the public lands the President argues that the inadequacy of the existing laws is proved by the prevalence of fraud under their present provisions. He refers particularly to the Timber and Stone act, the Desert Land act, and the commutation clause of the Homestead act. He points out, moreover, that the present coal law puts a premium



WHY NOT TAKE A HINT FROM THE CANAL?
—Van Leshout in the Philadelphia *Press*.

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on fraud by limiting the individual entry to 160 acres, thereby "making it impossible to develop certain types of coal-field and comply with the law." Figures not cited by the President, but given in the report of the Secretary of the Interior, show that for

THIS DOESN'T LOOK MUCH LIKE WAR.

(After the Accident.)
UNITED STATES—"Beg pardon; all my fault."
JAPAN—"Not at all; no harm done."
UNITED STATES—"Such an awkward blunder."
JAPAN—"A pleasure, I assure you, etc., etc., etc."
—Bartholomew in the Minneapolis *Journal*.

this year there have been 490 persons indicted for land frauds, of whom 89 have been convicted and 401 are under indictments still pending. Says the Pittsburg *Gazette-Times*:

"To the uninitiated Eastern man the mere fact that the President of the United States recommends a sweeping change in the land laws, in order to put a stop to flagrant frauds, would appear to be sufficient to secure the desired reform. But that is not the case. Mr. Roosevelt may be able to pass the legislation he asks, but he will have to fight for it. There are vast sections of the Far West where the chief end of man is to cheat the Government out of its land. Grave and reverend Senators in Congress and members of the House have land fever in the most pernicious form and in not a few cases they are sent to Washington by syndicates and corporations which are engaged in the delectable business of seizing every acre of Uncle Sam's possessions that they can get their hands on."

In his message on the Naval Personnel bill the President says:

"Under the present archaic system of promotion, without parallel in the navy of any other first-class power, captains are commissioned at the average age of fifty-six and rear-admirals at the average age of sixty. This system is the result of a long-continued prejudice in favor of a method of promotion by which all lieutenants in order of seniority pass through the several grades until they eventually become rear-admirals; a method which sacrifices the good of the service to the interests of individual mediocrity."

He points out that under the present system a man does not become a captain in the United States navy before the age of fifty-five, whereas in the British navy he may reach that grade at thirty-five. The President commends to Congress a bill prepared by the Secretary of the Navy and a board of six line officers, of which bill he says: "Should it be enacted into law it will cause officers on the seagoing list to reach the grade of captain at forty-eight and rear-admiral at fifty-five, and will assure their serving seven years in the grade of captain and seven years in the grade of rear-admiral, thus enabling them to become thoroughly skilful and efficient in these grades." He would also revive the grade of vice-admiral. The press greet his suggestions with unqualified approval. Says the New York *Tribune*:

"Those who had overlooked comparisons less strikingly made in earlier official documents will be deeply impressed by the figures given in the President's message regarding the personnel of the navy. Without conclusive proof hardly anybody would have been willing to believe that there is a difference of twenty years between the ages of the youngest American and foreign captains, or that officers of the United States must wait a dozen or fifteen years longer before becoming rear-admirals than the captains of other progressive nations. Still more unfortunate is it that the interval between attainment of flag rank and retirement—the period of largest usefulness—is only a year and a half on the average in the American service, while it ranges from six to fourteen years elsewhere. . . . . .

"The proposition to revive the grade of vice-admiral is not dictated alone by the considerations which demand more rapid promotion. It involves the dignity of the nation as well as the usefulness of the navy. The United States is now the third naval power of the world, yet the fleets of distinctly inferior nations are commanded by officers of higher rank than our service now contains. This state of affairs frequently involves no slight practical inconvenience, and it is besides a source of needless personal annoyance to American officers."

JAPANESE IN SAN FRANCISCO.

The brevity of the message which the President sent to Congress to accompany Secretary Metcalf's report on the Japanese situation in San Francisco causes the press to look to the facts brought out in the report, rather than to the recommendations of the President, for the inspiration of their remarks. The saner attitude of the Californians, and the calmer manner in which the public in general is reported to view the situation, lead the New York *Press* to observe that "the recent belligerence seems to have subsided, somewhat after the manner of a safety-valve blowing off steam." Secretary Metcalf, however, calls attention to three "matters of controversy" which will still bear discussion, and which are thus summed up in the President's introductory message: "First, the exclusion of the Japanese children from the San

THE TEMPEST IN THE TEAPOT IS ABOUT BOILED AWAY.
—Shiras in the Pittsburg *Chronicle Telegraph*.

Francisco schools; second, the boycotting of Japanese restaurants; and third, acts of violence committed against the Japanese."

The first question, the one which caused the original stir, has been turned over to the courts to determine its constitutionality,

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but the President asserts it as his earnest hope "that, as a matter of comity, the citizens of San Francisco will refuse to deprive these young Japanese children of education, and will permit them to go to the schools." This recommendation is taken by the press to imply a desire of the President to remove the matter from the courts and have it settled amicably outside. On this point the Louisville *Courier-Journal* observes:

"It would seem that before Congress seriously considers the question at all, the suit should be prest to a decision. If Congress can force foreigners into such State schools as it chooses, the State certainly ought to know it. If it can not decide who is to go into the schools and into what schools they shall go, why take up its valuable time with the matter?"

With this opinion the New York *Commercial* agrees. "Let the case proceed," it urges. "Let California prove, if she can, that her school law is constitutional—that the San Francisco Board of Education is in the right. Then it would be in order, would be the graceful thing to do, for the people of that city, 'as a matter of comity' to refuse longer" to exclude the young Japanese from their schools.

On the other matters brought out in the report—the boycott of Japanese restaurants and assaults upon the persons of Japanese—there is less comment, but the Chicago *Tribune* attributes to them responsibility for the whole disturbance. Says this paper: "The school segregation is not so serious a matter as the apparent inability of the police power in San Francisco to protect Japanese residents."

THE BROWNSVILLE AFFRAY.

In his memorandum to the Senate with the case against the discharged battalion of negro infantry as presented in Major Blocksom's report, the President maintains, and if possible accentuates, his uncompromising attitude. In this matter, which apparently will not down, he challenges, "as a right," the support of "every citizen of this country, whatever his color, provided only he has in him the spirit of genuine and far-sighted patriotism." He asserts that there is no doubt but that the soldiers shot up Brownsville, the fact being attested to by "scores of eye-witnesses." The act, he adds, was "one of horrible atrocity, and so far as I am aware, unparalleled for infamy in the annals of the United States army." "The punishment meet for mutineers and murderers such as those guilty of the Brownsville assault is death; and a punishment only less severe ought to be meted out to those who have aided and abetted mutiny and murder and treason by refusing to help in their detection." The Brooklyn *Citizen* thinks that no impartial American can read the President's strong and appealing statement and not feel entirely in accord with the position he has taken. Other papers unite in condemning the "mawkish sentiment" in favor of the discharged troops which "has been awakened in the North by professional agitators." There remain, nevertheless, several strong independent sheets, as well as certain members of the Senate, that are not satisfied with the evidence on which the President based his action. Their attitude is represented by the New York *Evening Post*, which says:

"The advantage of having able lawyers in Congress was never better illustrated than in yesterday's Senate debate, when Senator Foraker dissected the President's evidence against the negro troops. The 'scores of eye-witnesses' alleged by Mr. Roosevelt dwindled to eight. Mr. Foraker showed, too, that Mr. Roosevelt's precedents related only to war-time and the volunteer army, and not to the regulars. He made out a very strong case for the legal right of the soldiers to a trial by court-martial. This unfortunate controversy has now got down to a question of evidence and fact. Mr. Foraker, like almost every one else, does not affirm the total innocence of the troops. He merely asserts that the evidence against them is totally insufficient either to warrant the President's denouncing the troops as men deserving death and mutinous, or to convict them in a court of law. By all means there should be a Senate inquiry into the real facts in the case. There must be nothing left undone to prevent the American army's feeling that the Twenty-fifth Infantry has been the victim of a miscarriage of justice as serious in its way as the conviction of Dreyfus."

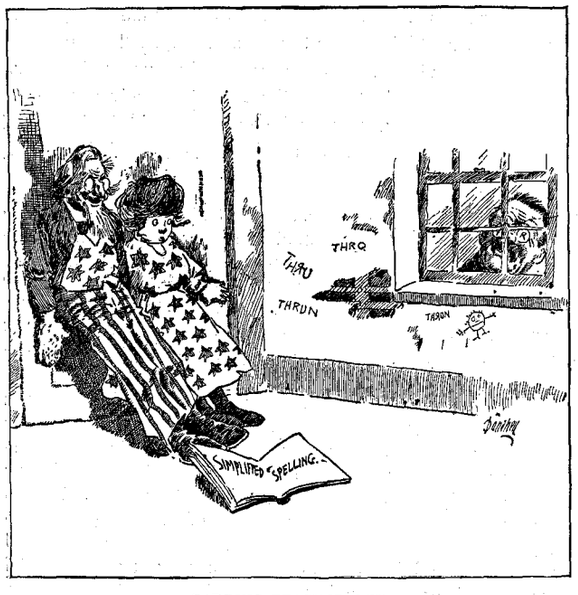
TOPICS IN BRIEF.

FEAR of a Japanese-American war pervades all the nations except America and Japan.—*New York Evening Mail.*

JAPAN protests that she doesn't want the Philippines. Some people will regard this as proof that Japan is unfriendly to us.—*Chicago Record-Herald.*

IF the British House of Lords is at all sensitive it must have noticed that some people are talking about it.—*Chicago News.*

KING LEOPOLD has closed the incident by formally admitting that he is a good ruler and a kind man.—*Washington Times.*



BARRING TEACHER OUT.
—Donahey in the Cleveland *Plain Dealer.*

CARNEGIE—"And to think we raised him from a pup, too."
—Brinkerhoff in the Toledo *Blade.*

THE WAY OF THE REFORMER IS HARD.

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FOREIGN COMMENT.

THE FRENCH PRESS A CORRUPTER OF THE PEOPLE.

SO many quotations are made by us from the greatest and most sparkling of the popular newspapers of Paris that it is fair that those whose opinions are seldom reflected in such papers should have an opportunity of stating here what they think of such organs as the *Humanité* of Mr. Jaurès, the *Intransigeant* of Mr. Rochefort, the *Aurore* in which Mr. Clemenceau conducted his pro-Dreyfus campaign, and many other journals of bubbling, effervescent wit and repartee, clever and acute comment, and strong party feeling, which are eagerly read by every one, and both in the city and provinces dictate the political and social opinions of the day. How all-powerful the French press is, and in what direction, is critically set forth in an article in the *Correspondant* (Paris). Indeed, the present perturbed and fermented condition of French social and political life is due to the corruptions of the French newspaper press, remarks Georges Maze-Sencier, writing from a Liberal and Catholic standpoint, in this influential review. The newspaper of Paris, we read, is too often either ill-informed or biased. The aim of editors is to pander to the blind passions of their readers by suppressing or misstating the news of the day. Hatred and envy are roused in the masses against the classes; antimilitarism, internationalism, socialism are set forth in captivating language as the remedies for poverty or inequality of fortune, and anticlericalism defended as the sole method of escaping the so-called oppressions and exactions of the church. "The country is inundated by newspapers edited on one-sided principles. This vast and able enterprise of lies, adapting itself to every shade and variety of the social life it is intended to indoctrinate and corrupt, sometimes works openly, with cold-blooded violence, sometimes insinuates its doctrine with reserve and apparent timidity, but in both cases the teaching is essentially the same."

Mr. Maze-Sencier does not mention the name of any particular newspaper, but he implies that news agencies are very defective in France, so that it is difficult even to obtain genuine American news in Paris, or to transmit genuine French news to New York. But the main point he makes is that public opinion is misled and misinformed concerning the domestic affairs and tendencies of the present moment in France. He tells in the following words how the press misleads the people with regard to social questions:

"The alleged crimes of the capitalist class are exposed and stigmatized in every way and in the most violent terms. A demand is made for a return to the nation of 'seigniorial property' or 'excessive capital,' in order that they may be exploited by the public in common. The land must be sold and given to the peasant that cultivates it. In a word, the doctrine of hate and envy is propagated on any pretext."

These same papers, he proceeds to say, are responsible for all the agitation against the church which has thrown France into such a state of confusion. To quote further:

"These journals propose to procure the eternal triumph of liberty and reason in order to secure the complete destruction of the church by a relentless anticlerical crusade. By clericalism they mean what they affirm to be an indissoluble league between capitalists and clericals, for the capitalists, in order to carry on their dishonest transactions, have need of clericalism which besots the brain of the masses by preaching resignation and obedience. With unwearied reiteration one affirmation is being dinned into the ears of the French people by the French press, namely, that the Catholic Church, far from educating the people, far from serving the people's interests, far from having organized in the country an economic system that was not insupportable, kept the peasant and the workingman up to the time of the Revolution in the direst subjection, in utter degradation and want."

While thus the press is charged with being the propagandist in France of social hatred, envy, and discontent, with slandering and persecuting religion and the church, it is also in many instances utterly unpatriotic, observes this writer. In his own words:

"Certain editors with a conscienceless audacity which is revolting, others more timidly and as if ashamed of their undertaking, but all of them perfectly in accord as to their ultimate object, expound the doctrine of antimilitarism and internationalism. The writings of Professor Hervé summarize the new gospel of these peculiar Frenchmen."

By these means the Republic is, so to speak, put up at auction, and is confiscated in a scandalous manner by certain political sectaries at the expense of the majority. As Cardinal Gibbons has recently stated that Americans do not understand the present condition of the church question in France, so this writer informs us that not only is the press of Paris insufficiently equipped with news agencies, but even international news is garbled and falsified. Thus the news-reading public loses all idea of truth, perspective, and proportion in studying the historical progress of their own country and of the world.

Recognizing the great power of the press, Mr. Maze-Sencier asserts that the only way to fight the influence of bad newspapers is to found good ones, and he advocates a scheme by which the people may be rightly educated and taught the true political, social, and patriotic aspect of their country's present and future. In this connection he writes as follows:

"The work we have to do is a work of intellectual and moral succor. In journals of local or widely extended circulation we must imitate the tactics of certain Socialist and Free-Thought papers. Such papers, with a view of dominating the minds, and with a terrible zeal in irreligious proselytism, give outlines of reading courses, and a list of books, brochures, tracts, reviews, and journals edited with the sole end of training and indoctrinating their readers in some one direction. It would be an excellent thing if the Liberals and Catholics were to follow the example of their adversaries on this point and to set over against the lists of great anticlerical, materialistic, and atheistic writers a list of great Catholic writers, of the most illustrious defenders of liberty, and of scientists who have not denied the faith. After the example of those who attack our beliefs and dearest convictions, we would thus be enabled to use the columns of our journals so as to effect a propaganda by means of existing works of literature, of science, of philosophy, of politics."—*Translation made for* THE LITERARY DIGEST.

A Warning to Canadian Girls.—Pleasant employment in excellent homes is speciously offered to Canadian young women by agents who travel from city to city and from village to village in the Upper Provinces, for the purpose of securing victims to a life that is worse than death, says the Toronto *Presbyterian*, which advocates stringent measures for the repression of this abominable traffic. We read as follows in this leading organ of the Presbyterian Church in Canada:

"Some of the Buffalo newspapers have laid bare a hellish systematized scheme for luring Canadian girls to American cities by attractive advertisements offering pleasant employment as ladies' maids or companions at good salaries, the real object being to secure them for immoral purposes. The agents employed in the business are women of good address who visit the towns and villages and smaller cities and engage attractive-looking young women by the promise of honorable work and alluring compensation. The girls are met at Buffalo or Niagara Falls by appointment, and from thence distributed to various American centers, only to find out how cruelly they have been deceived. Here is a field for remorseless detective work. There is no punishment too severe for those who would lure unsuspecting girlhood to lives of infamy and shame. The movements of any alleged employment agent in a town or village should be carefully watched by the authorities and her credentials rigorously examined. The arrest and punishment of a few of these female pimps would put a quietus upon the business. Any such offer should be regarded with the greatest suspicion."

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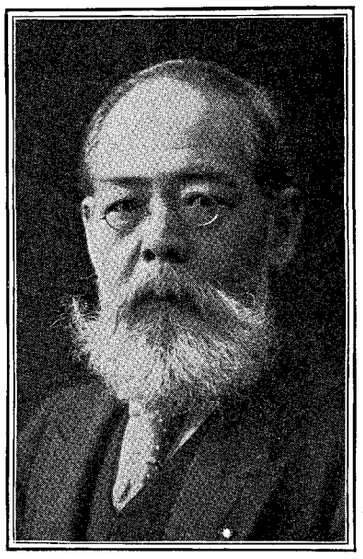
HOW THE PRESIDENT'S JAPANESE POLICY STRIKES EUROPE.

WHILE most European observers credit President Roosevelt with the courage and ability to bring his country out of what one paper calls "a very bad scrape" in the imbroglio over the Japanese in California, some have their doubts. The London *Economist*, for one, thinks "it may well be doubted" whether California will take orders from the White House, and "whether the theory of States' rights is not merely dormant, and whether jealousy of Federal encroachments as such will not be found to be acute." Serious danger is also apprehended by *The Saturday Review*, which observes that "if Mr. Roosevelt intends his threats for anything beyond foreign consumption, we may be at the beginning of a constitutional struggle unequaled in danger to the Union since the Civil War." The whole question is "full of disputable points," declares the Paris *Temps*.



BARON AOKI,

Japanese Ambassador to the United States, who said recently in a New York speech that "the dream of the pessimist who sees the fantom of the struggle for supremacy between Japan and the United States for the control of the Pacific is too ridiculous to be made the subject of serious comment."

Aside from these journals, however, the European press as a whole regard President Roosevelt's attitude with approval. His declaration to Congress that "everything that is in my power will be done, and all of the forces, military and civil, of the United States which I may lawfully employ will be so employed" as to "enforce the rights of aliens under treaties" is characterized as "cool but resolute and thoroughgoing," by the London *Times*, which thinks it will command the approval of the world. To quote:

"It is not, perhaps, wonderful that this attitude causes great dissatisfaction among the Californian Representatives. But for all others, in America and elsewhere, it ought to be a matter for profound satisfaction that there is one man in high office who will not palter with the truth or shrink from duty even to please a democracy."

The *Hamburger Nachrichten* agrees with this verdict and observes:

"In his message to the Congress President Roosevelt has delivered himself on the subject of the American-Japanese school question in a manner which does distinct credit to his clear-headedness as a statesman, whatever interpretation may be put upon his attitude by California and some other States."

The *Pester Lloyd* (Budapest) and *Neue Freie Presse* (Vienna) think that the necessities of America's position as a Pacific-Coast and East-Asiatic Power have required the assumption of just such a position as that taken by the President. The Budapest paper adds:

"The United States desires, by establishing friendly relations with China and Japan, to be able to compete successfully with the trade of France and England. In this way the States would also gain a more predominating influence in Europe, and Americans continue on their career of imperialism even tho Roosevelt were no longer President."

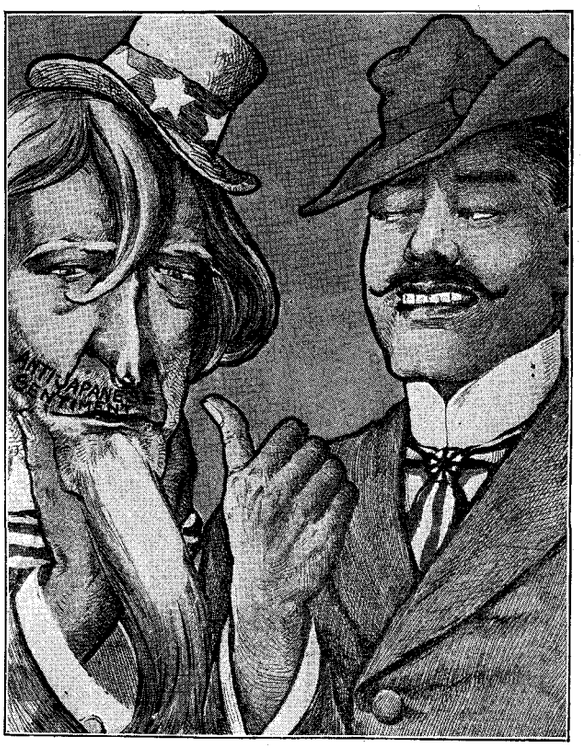
By proposing a constitutional amendment making the Federal Government paramount in all State questions involving treaty rights the President has hit on the right solution, thinks the London *Statist*, and it adds:

"We can not doubt that Congress will give the powers, for, as the President forcibly says, it is unthinkable that the whole might of the United States should be used, not to carry out a treaty which it has deliberately entered into, but to protect a small portion of the citizens of the United States who act in defiance of the treaty. The President's language has made an excellent impression in Japan, and gradually, we have no doubt, the incident will be satisfactorily closed."

On this point the *Gaulois* (Paris) is enthusiastic in its tribute to the President. "He is right," it exclaims, "and he maintains an attitude so uncompromising as to be an honor both to his strength of character and his wisdom. In pointing so clearly the course to be taken he has done good service to his country." His action, declares the *Figaro* (Paris), allays all fears of conflict between Japan and America.—*Translations made for* THE LITERARY DIGEST.

A LONDONER'S ASTONISHMENT AT NEW YORK.

FOREIGN authors who visit New York owe a debt of gratitude to the city they criticize for furnishing them with such a wealth of material for their comment. Paul Bourget, author of "Cosmopolis," was shocked by New York's excessive cab-fares, and in earlier times Dickens scoffed because he found pigs wandering at large in the streets. Mr. Charles Whibley, a sprightly London essayist, author of "The Pageantry of Life," has the advantage of both these illustrious men. He has visited Manhattan since the Flatiron Building was built. But he has a great deal more to say about our financial capital than to describe a "sky-scraper," which he defines as "a giant bird-cage whose interstices are filled with stone or concrete." "The superb effrontery" of the down-town sky-scrapers, he remarks (in *Blackwood's*), is so overpowering that "the Subtreasury of the United States looks like a foolish plaything beside its august neighbors," and under the same circumstances "the statue of Washington in Wall Street has no more



JAPAN TO UNCLE SAM—"Look here, old man, you need a shave."
—*Tokyo Puck.*

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dignity than a tin soldier." "The vast masses which frown upon Wall Street and Broadway are austere, like the pyramids. They seem the work of giants, not of men." But they are not beautiful, and why New York is not beautiful to the eye of a dawdling Londoner he thus explains:

"New York, indeed, is a city of many beauties, and with a reckless prodigality she has done her best to obscure them all. Driven by a vain love of swift traffic, she assails your ear with an incessant din and your eye with the unsightliest railroad that human ingenuity has ever contrived. She has sacrificed the amenity of her streets and the dignity of her buildings to the false god of Speed. Why men worship Speed, a demon who lies in wait to destroy them, it is impossible to understand. It would be as wise and as practical to worship Sloth. But the citizens of New York, as they tell you with an insistent and ingenuous pride, are 'hustlers.' They must ever be moving, and moving fast. The 'hustling,' probably, leads to little enough. Haste and industry are not synonymous. To run up and down is but a form of restless idleness. The men who do the work of the world sit still, surrounded by bells and telephones. Such heroes as J. Pierpont Morgan and John D. Rockefeller are never surprized on train or trolley. They show themselves furtively behind vast expanses of plate-glass, and move only to eat or sleep. But the common citizen of New York is never quiet."

He enlarges on the bizarre architectural features of the city in describing the buildings on Riverside Drive as follows:

"The human mind can not imagine anything less like 'residences' than these vast blocks of vulgarity. The styles of all ages and all countries have been recklessly imitated. The homes of the millionaires are disguised as churches, as mosques, as medieval castles. Here you may find a stronghold of feudalism cheek by jowl with the quiet mansion of a colonial gentleman. There Touraine jostles Constantinople; and the climax is reached by Mr. Schwab, who has decreed for himself a lofty pleasure-dome, which is said to resemble Chambord, and which takes its place in a long line of villas, without so much as a turnip-field to give it an air of seclusion or security. In this vainglorious craving for discomfort there is a kind of naïveté which is not without its pathos. One proud lady, whose husband, in the words of a dithyrambic guide-book, 'made a fortune from a patent glove-hook,' boasts that her mansion has a glass room on the second floor. Another vain householder deems it sufficient to proclaim that he spent two million dollars upon the villa which shelters him from the storm. In brief, there is scarcely a single palace on the Riverside which may not be described as an antic of wealth, and one wonders what sort of a life is lived within these gloomy walls. Do the inhabitants dress their parts with conscientious gravity, and sit down to dine with the trappings of costume and furniture which belong to their house? Suppose they did, and suppose in obedience to a signal they precipitated themselves upon the highway, there would be such a masquerade of fancy dress as the world has never seen.

"The Riverside Drive, then, is a sermon in stones, whose text is the uselessness of uncultured dollars."

To the European, New York is the most foreign city on earth, he declares. "Young in years, it possesses the rage and hardness of youth." "It is a braggart city of medieval courage and medieval cruelty, combining the fierceness of an Italian republic with a perfect faith in mechanical contrivance and an ardent love of material progress." He was not pleased with the familiarity of "the railway guard, the waiter, the cab-driver," and thus delivers himself on this topic:

"In New York you are met everywhere with a sort of urbane familiarity. The man who does you a service, for which you pay him, is neither civil or uncivil. He contrives, in a way which is by no means unpleasant, to put himself on an equality with you. With a mild surprize you find yourself taking for granted what in your own land you would bitterly resent. Not even the curiosity of the nigger, who brushes your coat with a whisk, appears irksome. For the habit of years has enabled white man and black to assume a light and easy manner, which in an Englishman, born and trained to another tradition, would appear impertinence."

But the New Yorker deals with the stranger as if the latter were actually his inferior. Thus:

"The New Yorker looks upon the foreigner with the eye of patronage. To his superior intelligence the wandering stranger is a kind of natural, who should not be allowed to roam alone and at large. And before you have been long in the land you find yourself shepherded and driven with an affability, not unmixt with contempt, into the right path. Again, you do not resent it, and yet are surprized at your own forbearance. A little thought, however, explains the assumed superiority. The citizen of New York has an ingenuous pride and pleasure in his own city and in his own prowess, which nothing can daunt. He is convinced, especially if he has never traveled beyond his own borders, that he engrosses the virtue and intelligence of the world."

He sums up the whole "outfit"—people and palaces—in the following epigrammatic finale:

"Thus you carry away from New York a memory of a lively air, gigantic buildings, incessant movement, sporadic elegance, and ingenuous patronage. But when you have separated your impressions, the most vivid and constant impression that remains is of a city where the means of life conquer life itself, whose citizens die hourly of the rage to live."

ENGLAND'S DISLOYALTY TO HER COLONIES.

ENGLAND is unfaithful to her colonies—the cry has at last come forth. She is courting the favor of the great Powers and is willing to sacrifice Australia, Canada, and Newfoundland for a smile from any one of them. Such is the charge made by a writer in *Faulding's Medical and Home Journal* (Adelaide). England, we are told, is growing tired of her colonies. They do not pay. Imperial imagination is dying out in the old country, which is becoming more and more narrowly sordid and insular. To quote:

"England is embracing the French, placating the Germans, cringing to the Americans, and reaching out to shake hands with the Russians. Meantime she has given much away that belonged to her colonies. Canada has a serious feud with the United States over Alaskan boundaries and seal-fishing rights. England ignored her colony and gave the Americans what they demanded. There are other matters in dispute at this very moment, and England is deliberately seeking to settle them with the United States regardless of Canadian interests and feelings."

Bitter are the terms in which this journal dwells on England's concessions to the United States in the matter of the Newfoundland codfishery. We read:

"Newfoundland has valuable fisheries which she has not only to protect against her own colonists, but against France and America in particular. A few days ago England actually agreed to permit the Americans to fish in Newfoundland waters under conditions which the Newfoundland fishermen themselves did not possess. The Americans were so amazed that they could not help blurting out their pleasure at having received concessions which they had not had the least hope of gaining, while the Newfoundland Government was so disgusted that it almost actually declared itself to be in revolt. It has resolved that the Newfoundland warships shall prevent United States fishing-vessels getting behind the Newfoundland laws, English treaty or no English treaty."

The result of this selfish cowardice will be, predicts this writer, that a greater Britain will arise which is separated from and hostile to the lesser Britain, a sort of imperial Frankenstein destined to be a menace and irresistible foe to the power that created it. Thus:

"England gave away Samoa to Germany and the United States despite Australian protests, and as sure as fate she will give away the New Hebrides to France, no matter what we may do and say. No further instances need be mentioned. The men who direct Great Britain to-day appear to be weary of the weight of empire, and by their deeds they are making good their thoughts. The day may not be far distant when the nations which go to constitute

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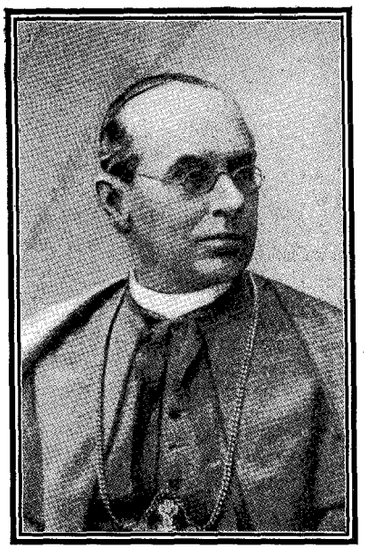
Greater Britain will have to band themsevles together not only to resist foreign encroachments, but the ill-concealed disloyalty of the old country as well. There may yet be a Greater Britain apart from Great Britain."

PROTESTANTISM AS AN INSTRUMENT OF PAN-GERMANISM.

THE easiest way to Germanize the Poles is to Protestantize them. Such is the opinion of many German statesmen; and the children's school strike in Posen, which we recently alluded to, was but one incident in the Pan-Germanistic movement inaugurated by Bismarck. The policy of this statesman was to buy up all the Polish real estate in the market and settle Germans upon it. In addition to this the Iron Chancellor appointed a "Colonization Commission" called, from the initial letters of the names of its members (Haussmann, Kennemann, Tiedemann), the Hakatists. This Hakatism resulted in a rapid interchange of property between Poles and Germans and a change of language and religion on the part of the former, for while the Hakatists paid large sums of money for the Polish lands, the Prussians sold land at much lower rates to the Polish immigrants. In two years $132,000,000 were expended by the Government in this way. The Poles, banished from their native land, lost touch with their church and their language, and their children often became Protestants and Germans. Such are the statements made by E. Vercesi in the *Rassegna Nazionale* (Rome) in which he discusses the "Latest Phase of German Protestantism." Catholicism is identified with "Polonism," we are told, and, practically, Protestantism and Germanism are identical. To quote the words of this writer:

"Polonism and Catholicism have formed a coalition. Identifying itself with the sorrows of the faithful, the Church of Poland preserves its immutability after a century of griefs, hopes, and efforts to attain to a resurrection. Catholicism and Polish nationality are one and indivisible. But even in the souls of the Poles the root of Catholicity is often very tender, and wo to that root if they emigrate. At Berlin, Hamburg, or Frankfort, if the laboring man from Posen does not come under the influence of a Polish priest he runs the risk of being at once lost to the church. His faith leaves him."



FLORIAN VON STABLEWSKI,

The late Archbishop of Posen, who died while struggling for the language and the liberties of the Poles.

He is likely at any time to become a Protestant, and the consequences are thus stated:

"If it be considered that Germanism implies Protestantism, it will be easily seen why the national spirit of Poland revolts, in the name of patriotism and religion, against the barbarity of Hakatism, that Hakatism which recently called forth a proud and noble protest from Archbishop Stablewski, of Posen, who was jealously guarding the liberty and spiritual independence of the church. Not content with Germanizing the spirit of the Polish children in the state schools, the Hakatists have extended their presumption so far as to interfere in the religious life of their victims."

This writer then shows how the German tongue is made to lead through Protestantism among the Poles to Germanism. They can only keep their own religion amid the environment of its own spoken language. When that religion goes, it is most generally supplanted by German Lutheranism, after which the Pole, being separated from his father's religion, is also separated from his fatherland, and becomes a German. To quote:

"A man's language is not his religion. We admit this; but if the language is changed, the demonstration of religion is made difficult, for the atmosphere proper to it has been taken away, especially in cases where fatherland and church are saluted as one. Protestantism is not Germanism. Let us not confound them. Theoretically Germanism can be conceived of as not comprehending Protestantism. In Prussian Poland the terms are practically synonymous. As early as at the end of 1886 Dr. Windhorst proclaimed in the Reichstag that the ends of Germanism would be better attained in Poland by Protestantizing than by colonizing."—*Translation made for* THE LITERARY DIGEST.

POLISH SCHOOL STRIKE.

"Won't you respect my uniforms, you rascals?"
"Get out! We don't come from Koepenick!"
—*Humoristische Blaetter* (Vienna).

THE GERMAN COSSACKS.

"You young rogues! If you won't learn Prussian, we'll treat you to Russian!"
—*Simplicissimus* (Munich).

POSING THE GERMANS IN POSEN.

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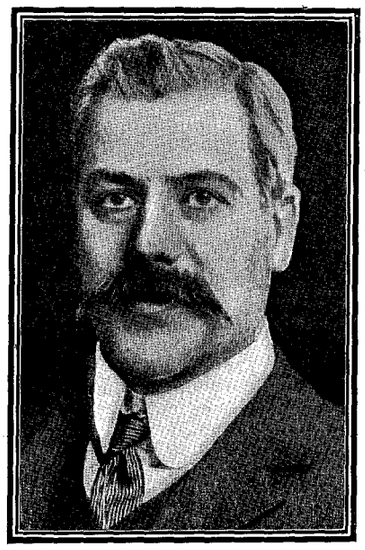
SCIENCE AND INVENTION.

RUBBER FROM WHEAT.

THAT a substance chemically identical with india-rubber may be made from wheat, and that a process for manufacturing it has been perfected by William Threnfall Carr, an English inventor, is asserted by William Thomas Walsh, writing in *The Technical World Magazine* (Chicago, December). The peculiarity of this process is that it requires an organic substance—the ferment of ordinary saliva—which the inventor proposes to secure in sufficient quantity from animals. Says Mr. Walsh:

"It was by accident that Mr. Carr made the first step in his great discovery. He was but a small boy then. Passing one day through a field of wheat, he plucked a few grains of the cereal, and, chewing them, formed the glutinous compound so familiar to every country lad. Many years later, recalling his early experience, he began putting his theory to the test. His first laboratory was a small shed in his back yard; his apparatus, a coffee-grinder and a kettle of hot water. Later, he was able to obtain the use of the best shops and laboratories in England.



WILLIAM THRENFALL CARR,
Inventor of "cereal rubber."

"His early experiments showed his theory to be founded on fact—namely, that wheat mixt with saliva, or rather with ptyalin, a chemical element found in saliva, does produce a kind of rubber. Ptyalin acts as a ferment, and combined with starch forms what is called dextrose, which, in its turn, treated by special processes, takes on the characteristics of rubber. The ascertaining of these facts was but finding, not solving, the problem. In what proportions to mingle the two ingredients, and where to procure ptyalin in sufficient quantities, were questions that had to be answered, if the discovery was to be anything more than a curious scientific fact. Prolonged tests showed that there is no substitute for ptyalin; but they also showed that the common hog secretes this chemical in unusual quantities. This point settled, the rest was a matter of patience, skill, and time.

"The various grades of rubber in use are quite numerous. They range from the thin solution for waterproofing to the tough material of the golf-ball. Mr. Carr discovered that any particular grade might be produced by arresting, at a precise moment, the fermentation process between the wheat and ptyalin. The most accurate, painstaking, and prolonged effort was required to discover the precise moment in each case. Six grades of rubber are the result. They may be used for the following purposes: for waterproofing; for tubes and other flexible material; for tires; as a substitute for linoleum; for paving purposes; and for golf-balls. Others will follow from time to time. A syndicate has been formed in England to push the new product; and two of the governments on the Continent are said to have purchased the patent-rights for their respective countries.

"In the face of the fact that so many men have failed in their attempts to produce a similar product, how can we be at all certain that the new product will realize our expectations? There is usually a specific test for the genuine as against the spurious. In the case of cereal rubber, the test is vulcanization. This is a process of hardening, through the introduction of sulfur, to enable rubber to resist the action of heat and solvent chemicals. But three substances, so far as is known, can stand this process; they are natural rubber, gutta-percha, and the new product known as cereal rubber.

"Finally, the question of the cost presents itself. For practical purposes, that is the vital question. And the answer is, cereal rubber can meet natural rubber, in open competition, in the markets of the world. It can undersell it. The initial cost of transporting the liquid product of the forest to the manufacturing plant is a heavy one. Moreover, additional expense is entailed by the necessity of removing certain impurities which natural rubber accumulates in its crude state. Indeed the question is rather, will natural rubber, on which the world has depended in the past, continue to find a place as an article of commerce?"

A YEAR'S WEAR IN TWO MINUTES.

IN deciding on the availability of various materials for use in building or paving, it is necessary to know their resistance to wear. Exposure to the actual conditions of use for years might seem necessary, but this is now obviated in various ways, especially by devices which aim to give in a few minutes an amount of wear that would correspond to that of years in actual use. One of these, now in practical use in Germany, is described and illustrated by H. Burcharts in *Engineering* (London, November 30). Says this writer:

"Those in charge of the technical investigations of paving and similar materials therefore much desire to have at hand a method of testing requiring only a short time to carry out, and giving also comparative results. However, the methods adopted for conducting the abrasion tests, which still generally consist either in grinding specimens of material on cast-iron disks with corundum, or in treating the materials in revolving cylinders (rattlers), with or without steel balls, do not give reliable results; the small particles of the material under trial, which are separated in the grinding process, increasing the wear, while on the other hand, when the same material is tested in a rattler, they decrease this wear by filling the interstices of the material, and thus reducing the effect of shocks.

"On the other hand, the grinding material itself is also used up, it being impossible to avoid the same grains being used repeatedly, thus changing their shape and effect; while with soft elastic materials the hard grains of the grinding powder partly penetrate the test-piece, thus reducing the grinding effect, the grains now rubbing each other, instead of acting on the surface of the specimen, which is then protected by the grains fixt in it. The effect of this is that the results obtained by means of the said methods give no sure indication as to the behavior of the materials under practical conditions.

"A new method of treating the materials, by which the difficulties and errors of the methods now in use are avoided, and which, above all, possesses the great advantage that the grinding particles are independent of the carrier, and that each grain touches the surface to be ground only once, is found in the sand-blast. The effect of the sand-blast is well known by the examples offered by nature, and by its uses in some industries.

"What can be effected by the grinding influence of the sand blown by the wind during centuries is shown, for instance, by the renowned pyramid of Gizeh. How the dust and sand particles wear out and round off the edges and projecting parts of buildings in a series of years can be seen every day. This slow action of the natural sand-blast is imitated in a much higher degree by the artificial sand-blast which is employed for making ground glass, for engraving purposes, and for cleaning metallic and other surfaces."

The apparatus for abrasion tests described in the present article is that now used in the Royal Institute at Lichterfelde, Germany. In this device sand falls from a sand-chamber *n* (Fig. 1) through small tubes *q* on to the plate *t*, and thence by small openings into a slit, where dry steam from the cylinder *b* blows it upward against the piece under test. The slide *e* allows the immediate stoppage of the sand stream. The test-piece *g* is fixt in the frame *f*, and is moved over the sand-blast by means of a driving-gear. Under the sample is placed a sheet-iron templet, with a round opening which allows only part of the specimen to be abraded by the sand-blast. The result is described thus:

"The amount of this abrasion shows the quality and the

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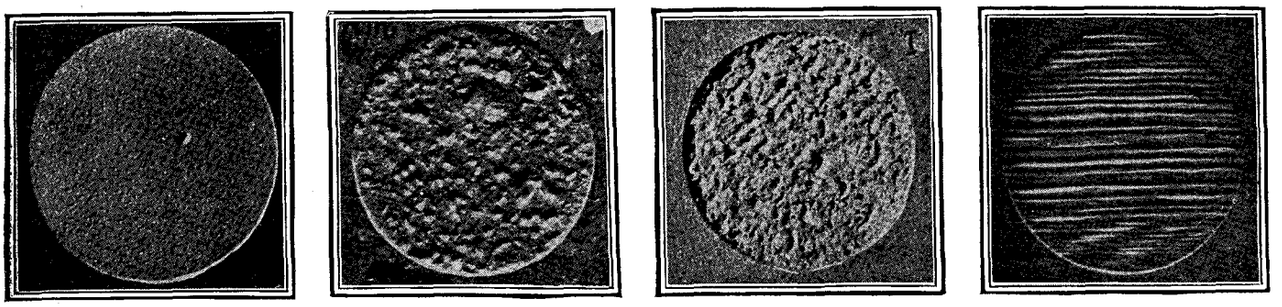

LINOLEUM. PORPHYRY. ARTIFICIAL STONE. OAK.

EFFECT OF THE SAND-BLAST ON VARIOUS MATERIALS.

characteristic properties of the material and the greater or less homogeneity of the different parts, the coarseness of the grain, the uniformity or irregularity of the abrasion, and, as a result, whether the material or its constituents are of equal or unequal hardness. It shows the thickness of the colored layer of burned plates, and of the fine-grained covering of concrete specimens as well as the fibrous structure of the various kinds of wood.

"All these effects of the sand-blast on various materials will be clearly seen from the accompanying reproductions of photographs. These peculiarities and characteristics of materials can not be analyzed by the grinding or rattling processes. By treating materials on a Bauschinger grinding disk a flat surface only is obtained.

"Some results obtained in the Prussian testing laboratory from abrasion tests made with different material . . . by means of the sand-blast apparatus . . . prove that the new method described above is most suitable for testing road and floor materials, and give useful information with regard to their power of resistance to wear in practical use, and to their quality. Tests under the sand-blast also give valuable data as to the advisability, or otherwise, of recommending certain building-materials for certain purposes.

"The duration of the exposure to the sand-blast has, after many experiments, been fixt at two minutes, the steam-gage indicating a pressure of two atmospheres. This short time suffices to give a good indication of the structure of the materials tested and their resisting qualities. The sand used in the Prussian testing institute is a natural quartz sand of fine and nearly round grains."

Excessive Light as a Cause of Disease.—The contention of Dr. Woodruff, already noted in these columns, that an excess of light is injurious to the human organism, receives support in a recently published investigation by Dr. J. Nevins Hyde, who believes that excessive light is one cause of cancer of the skin. Says an editorial writer in *American Medicine* (Philadelphia, November):

"Particularly impressive are the observations upon the paucity of cancer of the skin among the dark races. If the disease is due to a parasite, as many now believe, perhaps the irritation of excessive light on unpigmented skins may be the reason for the lack of resistance which gives the parasite a chance. Even if it is not parasitic in origin, the light may be the irritant which causes abnormal growth. If this is true, we should expect to find that in exposed surfaces, skin cancers are noticeably more common in blonds than in brunettes. Further observations are demanded."

In this connection the writer calls attention to the fact that a pernicious form of cancer follows long-continued short-time exposures to the *x*-rays, as evidenced by another death of an eminent operator from this cause. He writes:

"The cells are not killed outright as in the old forms of burns, but are changed in some manner. The cases do not explain the etiology of cancer in any way whatever, but they do confirm Hyde's contention that even slower and less powerful rays, such as the ultra-violet and light rays, may cause superficial epitheliomas. Carl Beck noticed many years ago that brunettes were rarely burned by Röntgen rays, and it would be of value to record the complexions of all these fatal cases. Extraordinary precautions are necessary, but this may be a specialty which blond physicians would better avoid entirely."

UNSAFE RAILWAY SPEEDS.

ONE railway system—the Burlington—has now come out strongly against excessive speeds in attempts to make up lost time. According to *The Railway and Engineering Review* (Chicago, December 15), such speeds are resorted to by "nearly every railroad in the country." In a long circular to engineers and crews, the second vice-president of the C., B. & Q. now insists that excessive speed is not necessary, even in maintaining fast passenger-schedules. According to the paper named above:

"To make the position of the road all the stronger, the management has issued instructions of a positive character which limit the speed of trains, the limit varying on the different divisions. This does not mean, however, that the trains are not to be fast or on time. In fact, under the new instructions they have greatly increased in regularity of performance, and this without the employment of excessive speed. In order that there may be no excuse for the engineers not obeying the speed instructions, the officials have purchased 150 speed-indicators, which have been placed in the cabs of all passenger-engines. 'After the company has done all it can,' reads the circular, 'to provide safe and comfortable passage for its patrons, it remains with the engineer pulling the individual train to handle it so as to make the passenger's trip agreeable or to render it altogether uncomfortable. Much more is required of an engineer hauling a passenger-train than simply the ability to start it, maintain speed, and stop it at regular places.'"

In commenting editorially on this step, which it characterizes as a substitution of safety for hysteria, *The Review* observes:

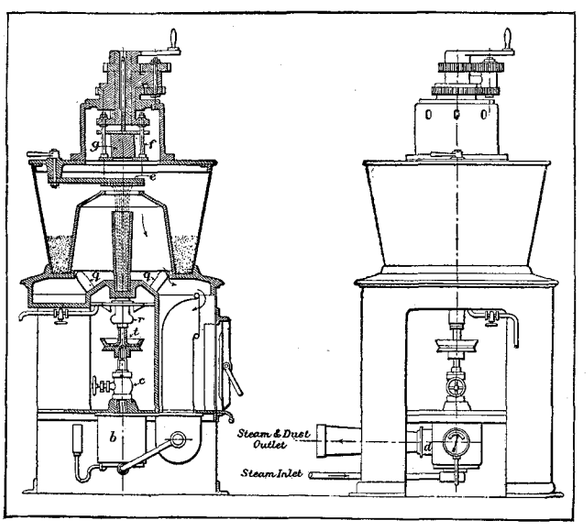

FIG. 1. FIG. 2.

DIAGRAMS OF THE MACHINE WHICH TESTS THE WEARING POWERS OF BUILDING-MATERIALS BY MEANS OF THE SAND-BLAST.

"It will require increased attention from train and station crews to reduce wasted time at station stops and cause some lessened economy of locomotive operation to enable schedules to be made under the restrictions set forth in the order. The management

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will also be provided with an additional incentive to keep the line in shape for uniform speeds throughout, including such measures as will obviate dangers in passing through yards and non-stop stations at high speeds. These considerations involve expenditures of time, money, and constant attention, yet the move is emphatically in the right direction. Wrecks also cost enormously, in the many ways brought sharply to mind in several recent occurrences.

"That this matter of speed rivalry has led many lines to pass the limits of sane operation will be readily admitted by most railway officials. And this does not apply solely to single-track Western roads. On several occasions during the past few months while riding over some of the most prominent Eastern lines, we have been awakened from a sound sleep by bursts of speed which could only be characterized as utter recklessness under the circumstances. We hear much of the public demand in this regard, but the average person does not care so much about the time involved in the transit as he does that the train will arrive at his destination on time. Maintained schedules, absence of barnyard stops, and no wasted time around stations are of more importance to the average passenger than a fast schedule, particularly when the latter is plainly uncertain of accomplishment."

As an instance of the lengths to which minor officials will go in order to obey orders in this matter of high speed, the writer cites the following case, which he assures us is from actual experience:

"A 'flyer' service was extended to include two divsions which had not been constructed long enough to have a solid roadbed. Engine crews would find new 'soft spots' every trip, hence the card established could not be made under what the engineers considered reasonably safe running. The superintendent called on the master mechanic and stated that he 'wanted that card made. If the men on there would not make it,' he 'wanted men put on those engines who would.' The traveling engineer rode the engines several trips and after spurring up the men by putting the superintendent's proposition up to them, reported the card 'too short for safe running by twelve minutes over one division and by fifteen minutes over the other.' The master mechanic then rode one of the engines himself and concurred with the traveling engineer. In conference with the master mechanic over this report, the superintendent stated that he was not concerned about that. The card was there to be made. 'All the trouble is that those fellows haven't got nerve enough. I want men put on those runs who'll make that card.'

"It required the putting of one of the trains in the ditch, the resultant testimony showing the accident to be entirely due to unsafe speed, to get the card lengthened as recommended in the first place. The incident is cited to show how essential it is that general officers exercise their judgment in the proposition, for railway discipline is so narrowing that the minor official seldom considers it his prerogative to exercise a sufficient discretion. Hence we commend the Burlington management for going at the matter in the proper manner."

Coal-mine Explosions and the Weather.—That meteorological conditions, especially the barometric pressure, may have an important effect on the liability to gas explosion in coal-mines has been recently asserted by Messrs. Parsons and Walker, two authorities on the subject, whose opinions, according to an editorial writer in *The Engineering and Mining Journal* (New York, December 1) deserve the most careful consideration. Says this paper:

"They make no pretense to saying the last word on the subject, but present data merely with the view of calling attention to the possibility that the state of the atmosphere may be a factor in determining the safety of a colliery. Mr. Parsons offers evidence which certainly tends to support the hypothesis that at periods of low barometer a coal-mine may be more subject to the discharge of explosive gas than at other times, and by a curious coincidence, shortly after his article was written, the disastrous explosion occurred at Wingate, England, which led Mr. Walker to advance a similar suggestion.

"Of course, no safe conclusion as to this subject can be drawn until all the available evidence has been carefully examined. Unfortunately a great deal of important evidence can not be obtained, for various reasons. In this connection, it will be highly useful if every colliery engineer and operator who has notes of experience or has ideas bearing upon this subject will communicate them for publication. . . . We have reason to believe that the commission of the United States Geological Survey, which is engaged in the study of the coals of the United States, and is aiming to extend its researches into the field of coal-mining, will investigate the hypothesis which we have advanced. It is eminently suitable that a government commission, which can secure the official cooperation of the Weather Bureau, should undertake such an investigation. If it should really prove that there is a connection between colliery explosions and the barometric pressure, it is unnecessary to point out the immense importance that such a discovery would have to the coal-mining industry."

DUST AND HOW TO GET RID OF IT.

THAT public measures for the suppression of dust are absolutely necessary to public health, is the contention of J. Crinon, who writes on "The War with Dust," in the *Revue Scientifique* (Paris, November 3). He reminds us that the result of the great advance in automobile traction is to raise such clouds of dust that the air in some places has become irrespirable. Besides the danger of injury to the health of those who breathe it, the depreciation of property situated along the public roads is another fact that is stimulating the authorities to take measures for the suppression, or at least for the diminution, of dust. He goes on to say:

"The air of our cities contains an incalculable number of microbes. Miquel has counted 5,500 to the cubic meter in the air of the Rue de Rivoli (Paris). These microbes come from sweeping, dusting, or simply from the ventilation of particular spots. The number of microbes in free air is almost negligible in comparison with those found indoors. Miquel found 36,000 to the cubic meter in houses on the Rue Monge, 40,000 in the wards of the new Hôtel Dieu [hospital], and 80,000 in those of the Pitié hospital. The figures are equally large when we study the air of barracks and schools. Hesse found in the latter 35,000 microbes to the cubic meter, and Kiener 220,000 in a room in barracks.

"If we note that the number of microbes suspended in the air diminishes as we rise in the atmosphere, . . . we can not deny that dust is their chief cause. It maintains the microbes in the air, and must be regarded as a murderous substance from which only a miracle will save us. . . . . .

"As dust is principally the result of the trituration of stone and of various hard inorganic débris, it causes a huge quantity of minute abrasions on our mucous surfaces, which serve as gates to admit microbes—as breaches through which they invade the organism."

How, then, shall we get rid of dust? The writer notes that it gathers especially on wood. Bricks, asphalt, or tiles are easily mopped or scrubbed, but a wooden floor has cracks in which the dust collects. In the case of wooden pavements these cracks are now generally filled with some kind of cement, of which the best, the writer thinks, is a kind of mineral wax—one of the petroleum products. But he disapproves of wood altogether as a paving material on account of its absorptive qualities. Miquel, he says, found 17,000 bacteria in a single gram of sawdust from new pitch-pine pavement, taken near the surface. From the same mass of old pavement 5 centimeters [2 inches] below the surface were taken 50,000 bacteria. Crinon praises the American use of asphalt blocks—an interesting fact when we remember that our municipal authorities are condemned by some for not making more use of wood instead of asphalt. The author next treats of methods of cleaning. We read:

"Dry sweeping must be rejected as very dangerous; it displaces the dust, raises it into the air, without doing any good, to the great detriment of the neighboring dwellings and the passers-by. It ought not to be permitted at all. . . . . .

"Watering lays the dust, it is true, but forms mud, and this mud, when the water evaporates, becomes dust again. The watering must thus be frequently repeated. This necessitates an expense for water and labor that all towns can not meet. The city

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of Paris has just built an automobile watering-cart that makes 9 kilometers [about 5½ miles] an hour, and tramway companies use trolley watering-cars. . . . In seaside places sea-water is often used, . . . and this has sometimes been made antiseptic by electrolysis, but the process is expensive."

On the whole, treatment with oil or coal-tar is regarded by the author as the most promising method of suppressing dust. The streets may be sprinkled with crude petroleum where the price is sufficiently low, as in California, or covered with a thin layer of tar, as is done in parts of France. An apparatus invented by Lassailly for use in that country heats the tar and spreads it as it goes. This process may be applied to wood and other pavements as well as to earth or macadam. The writer does not mention the recent popular American plan of incorporating coal-tar with the upper layers of a macadam road, but he concludes that some use of tarry or oily material on roads has now become a public necessity.—*Translation made for* THE LITERARY DIGEST.

A NEW FIRE-DETECTOR.

A NEW instantaneous fire detector, giving two separate alarms as the fire progresses, is now manufactured by a London company. As described in *Engineering* (London, December 7) this alarm has numerous points of superiority over the automatic fire-detectors now in use, reporting a fire at the earliest possible stage, giving a second alarm if the first is not heeded, and being quite immune from false alarms. It automatically allows for slow normal variations of temperature, whereas a quick increase of the same amount due to fire causes the instrument to act at once. Its action is described as follows:

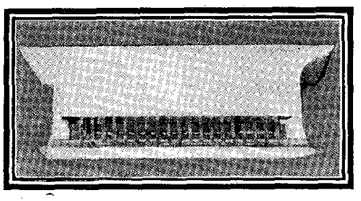

FIG. 1.—THE LESLIE-WALKER INSTANTANEOUS FIRE-DETECTOR, Ready to be attached to the ceiling for instant service.

"In any building installed throughout with this system, should a fire, even so small as may be caused by the burning of a newspaper in any part of the premises, occur, a warning is instantly given locally on a bell, and the exact spot where the fire has occurred is shown on an indicator. This first call is termed the 'caution call.'

"Should the fire not at once be extinguished, then a second call is given, either on a gong outside the main entrance of the building, or, where permitted, direct to the fire-station. This signal is called the 'danger alarm.' The action of the instrument will, however, be better understood if we refer to the engravings, Figs. 1 and 2, above. In these, Fig. 1 illustrates the detector as it appears complete and ready to be fixt to the ceiling of a room, while Fig. 2 shows the same with the outer casing removed. Both these views show the detector in the reverse position to that it has when fixt, the mercury tube being seen in the upper part of the engraving, whereas it is below the carrier when fixt. This tube is the vital part of the apparatus, the casing and base seen in Fig. 1 being merely the mounting on which the tube is carried, and the means whereby the wires are attached to it.

"The tube is shown in detail in Fig. 3, referring to which, the bulb *A*, with very thin walls, is filled with mercury, and exposes a large surface to the atmosphere. The part *B* is a very fine capillary tube which conveys the mercury from *A* to the compensating chamber *C*, this chamber being partly filled with mercury. At the point *D* a platinum wire is fused into the tube *A* and is always in contact with the mercury, and at *E* and *F* are two platinum wires fused into the normally empty contact-tube, which tube and all the connecting wires are embedded in plaster of Paris.

"Now under normal conditions the mercury in the tube *A* expands and contracts with varying temperatures. These varying temperatures may be due to summer and winter conditions, to artificial heating or lighting, or any such-like cause. When the expansion due to rises of temperature from these causes takes place, the mercury in the tube *A* is relieved of the pressure upon it by flowing through the fine tube *B* into the chamber *C*, the reason for this preference being that mercury does not readily flow into an empty tube, and, so long as the carrying capacity of the

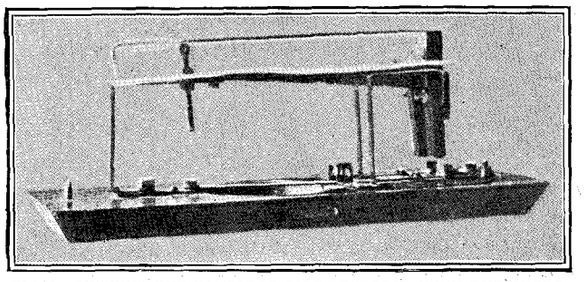

FIG. 2.—SHOWING THE COMPLETE FIRE-DETECTOR WITH THE OUTER CASING REMOVED.

tube *B* is not exceeded, the mercury will flow into the chamber *C*, through *B*, rather than travel up the empty contact-pipe. It is possible to regulate the flow through the tube *B* by making the tube finer or broader, and the severest normal conditions can therefore be satisfied.

"If, however, the expansion of the mercury in *A* be so rapid that it can not pass through *B*, it is then forced up the contact-tube, comes in contact with the platinum wires, and gives the necessary alarm. A fall of temperature in the mercury does not cause a shrinkage below *D*, but the mercury descends in *C*. The margin between danger and safety is, therefore, the gap between the level of the mercury at the point marked *D* and the contact-wire *E*; and whatever normal conditions prevail, that margin is not altered, for the mercury only enters the contact-tube under abnormal pressure."

The compensating tube described above absolutely prevents, it is claimed, the possibility of false alarms. Where exceptional conditions are met with, such as in a foundry, a bakehouse, or a drying-stove, a detector which will compensate much more rapidly than the ordinary device is fixt, thus leaving a large margin of safety against false alarms. To quote further:

"The act of removing the outer casing causes a special contact to be made, and a distinctive call to be at once given, so that any interference with the instrument is impossible. The mercury being sealed in a vacuum, should the tube be accidentally or intentionally broken, the mercury will be at once forced into the contact-tube and connect the wires *D*, *E*, and *F* simultaneously, by which means a distinctive call will also be given. An additional advantage of the mercury being in a vacuum is that it can not deteriorate, and the contact is therefore always perfect. . . . . .

"By an ingenious system of wiring the whole of the circuits may be tested, night and morning, by simply pressing a button at the indicator-board; and furthermore, should a wire be accidentally cut or broken, and should a fire break out when such a fault has occurred, the alarm would still be given. Of course, the battery must be kept in order, or the instrument will become inert.

"We had the opportunity some little time ago of witnessing the effect of lighting a newspaper in one corner of a room where one of these detectors was installed, and were struck by the rapid way in which the alarm was given, the time being only a few seconds. We also understand that not long ago a demonstration was given

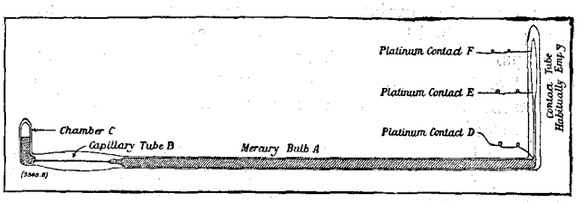

FIG. 3.—DIAGRAM GIVING IN DETAIL THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE MERCURY-FILLED TUBE—THE SENSITIVE PART OF THE DETECTOR.

in a room about 45 feet square by 45 feet high. In this case the lighting of a newspaper in the room was signaled in 15 seconds. In a hall 150 feet long and 70 feet wide by 80 feet high, at the Glasgow University, three detectors were installed, and a news-

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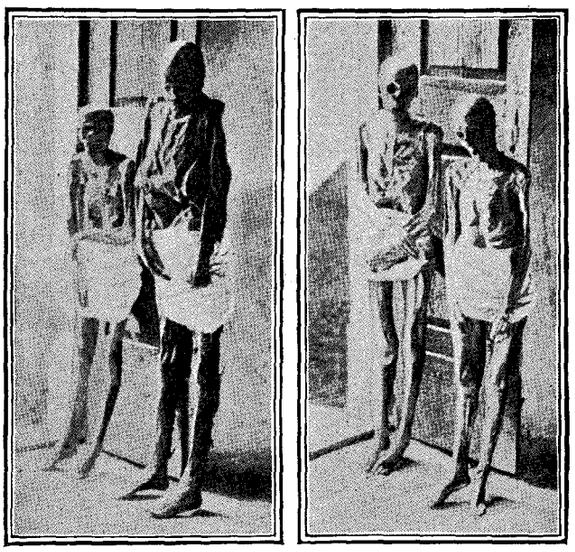
paper lighted at one end of the room. A call was in this case given in 20 seconds, all three detectors coming into action."

Altho the system has not long been before the public, and has only recently been put upon the market, it has already detected outbreaks of fire—one at Harrow, and another in the engineer's quarters at the Houses of Parliament.

A FUNGUS THAT MAKES MUMMIES.

A PECULIAR fungus that grows in certain tombs, and multiplies so rapidly that the bodies, being deprived of moisture, have no time to decay, but are preserved as mummies, is described by F. Savorgnan de Brazza in *Cosmos* (Paris, November 3). The mummies produced by this curious process have long been known, but the cause of their production was not recognized until the modern era of microscopy and the special study of minute organisms. Says Mr. de Brazza:

"The preservation of dead bodies may be brought about artificially by the use of chemicals, as is the case with the mummies of Egypt, Peru, and Mexico. The mummification is sometimes also natural; certain tombs and certain cemeteries have the property of preserving and mummifying bodies, and tho these are not very numerous, they are not as rare as one might think. . . . In all such cases bodies are found to be dried and mummified naturally, so that after removal from their tombs they resist the destructive action of the atmosphere indefinitely.



MUMMIES MADE AT VENZONE, ITALY, BY THE ACTION OF A MICROSCOPIC FUNGUS.

"One of the most interesting of these cases, both on account of the number of mummies and their perfect preservation, is that of the tombs in the cathedral of Venzone, a small city of the province of Udine, in Italy. This property was first discovered in 1647 in a tomb bearing the arms of the Scaligeri of Verona. In it was found the perfectly dried mummy of a man of average height; it weighed but 15 kilograms [33 pounds], altho in life the man apparently had been quite corpulent. At different epochs up to 1835 twenty-one new mummies were discovered, and from 1835 to the present time twenty others were added to this number, making the total 42.

"It must be noted that the last were those of persons deceased since 1835, which shows the rapidity of the mummification. Investigations made by physicians and scientists have fixt the time required for the transformation at a little more than a year. It has also been proved that only eleven tombs possess this curious property, and that all these are situated near the high altar.

"These eleven tombs apparently have no trace of special construction; they are of masonry, covered and closed by slabs of stone."

The mummies are all alike in appearance, we are told, and show the same peculiarities when dissected. The bodies preserve their forms, and the features, tho greatly altered, are recognizable. They are extremely light, and sound when struck like a mass of parchment. The skin, which is of a yellowish-brown tint, looks like tanned leather. Beneath it is a yellow fibrous substance. The muscles, including the heart, are changed into very light membranes, and the viscera have the thickness of their membranous coils, while kidneys and pancreas have disappeared. The brain is yellowish-brown and reduced to one-third of its volume. The soft parts are replaced with a mass of brown powder. The weight of the mummies varies from 22 to 44 pounds for the tallest individuals. The writer continues:

"There have been many hypotheses regarding this preservation of bodies in the tombs of Venzone. Some have attributed it to the presence of salts of niter, alumina, or lime, but there are no such salts in the tombs. New investigations have proved that the mummification is not due to chemical action, but to a biologic process.

"There have been discovered in several parts of the bodies large traces of a microscopic parasitic fungus, the *Hypha tombicina*, which also covers the wooden coffins.

"On the other hand, a body placed in a sealed zinc coffin was transformed into a skeleton and not into a mummy. Fragments of wood found in the tombs are also dried as if they had been long subjected to the action of heat. The *Hypha tombicina* is very eager for moisture; it absorbs it by means of the microscopic suckers that serve it as roots: it develops and multiplies with great rapidity and dries the bodies before they can enter into decomposition. The tombs are full of the spores of the *Hypha*, which find there a very congenial soil.

"It has been attempted to transplant this species of *Hypha* and to cultivate it artificially, but without success; the conditions that assure its life and reproduction are unknown.

"As the Italian law no longer permits burial in churches, the mummies of Venzone can not increase in number, and soon this curious process of biologic mummification will be only a memory."—*Translation made for* THE LITERARY DIGEST.

SCIENCE BREVITIES.

BROADLY speaking, the Northern hemisphere will after November 1 report on its weather conditions to the Weather Bureau in Washington, says *Science* (New York, December 7). "An arrangement made with the Central Physical Observatory at St. Petersburg enables reports to be received from the great land area lying between the Russian capital and the Pacific, while the opening of cable communication with Iceland will render possible telegraphic reports of the area of low winter barometer of the North Atlantic. As a consequence of these additional services, it is hoped that the bureau will be in a position to deal with world conditions and to make accurate forecasts for a longer time than ever before."

"IT is said that tantalum has great possibilities when used for tool-making, its toughness and hardness rivaling the diamond," says *The Mechanical World*. "Von Bolton made a laboratory experiment recently, when a sheet 0.04 inch was hammered from the first piece produced of the pure metal, and all attempts to drill a hole through it were found to be futile. Finally a diamond drill was employed, and, after continuous work for seventy hours at a speed of 5,000 revolutions per minute, about one-fourth of the task had been completed, while the drill was so badly worn as to necessitate a discontinuance of the test. Tantalum is entirely non-magnetic, has a specific gravity varying from 14 to 17, and fuses at about 2,300° C. (4,172° F.). In the form of a wire it has a tensile strength of about 128,000 pounds per square inch."

"THE total number of stars usually supposed to be visible in the largest telescopes and on the best photographs is about one hundred million," says *Nature* (London, November 15), "but according to a computation recently made by Mr. Gore this number must be accepted as the outside maximum. To obtain his results [published in *The Observatory*] Mr. Gore made a number of counts on the photographic prints given in the late Dr. Roberts's volume of stellar photographs, and found that the average number of stars per square degree was 4,137 in the Milky Way, 1,782 near the Milky Way, and 408 in the non-galactic regions. Combining these results with the estimated areas of galactic and non-galactic regions published by Prof. E. C. Pickering, he obtained as the grand total of visible stars the number 64,184,757. This is probably smaller than the actual total, as some of the fainter star images would probably be lost in the reproduction of Dr. Roberts's photographs. Clusters and nebulæ were avoided in making the counts, so that Mr. Gore's total will have to be increased on this account. In another count the average richness of the irregular clusters came out as 5,752 stars per square degree, but this is far below the average richness of the globular clusters, one of which, Omega Centauri, shows 25,000 stars per square degree."

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THE RELIGIOUS WORLD.

A "TRANSITIONAL" CATHEDRAL AT ALBANY.

THE new Cathedral of All Saints at Albany, of which the corner-stone was laid in 1884 and the choir is as yet the only part fully completed, has "the peculiar charm of a transitional period." So says Mary Parkinson in an account of the structure published in *The Outlook* (New York, December 22). It is with relief, she comments, that one turns "to the slow and dignified growth of the Albany cathedral," in a country "where architectural designs too frequently prove a subject for futile reproach and lamentation, where the fantastic and grotesque are added to the mean and the trivial, . . . and where haste seems the chief element in construction." The contrast presented in the present case is here indicated:

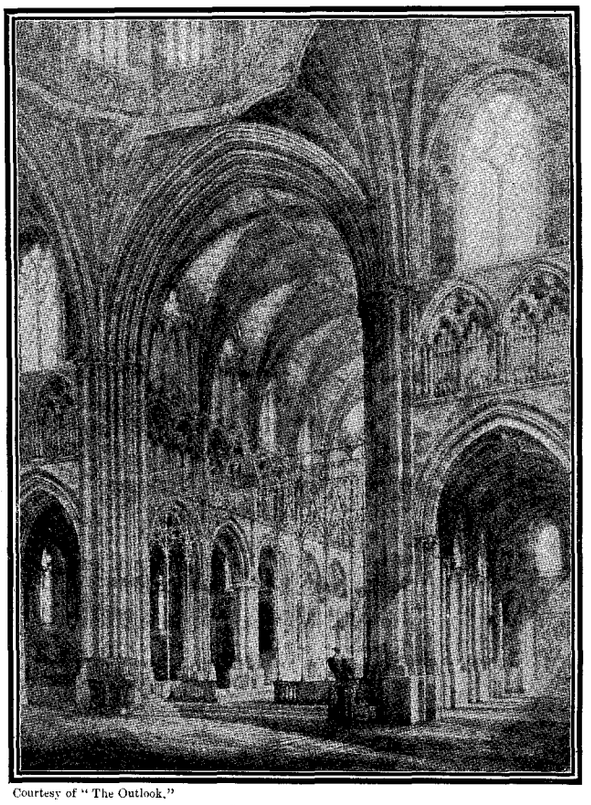
"Here artistic sensibility, with its accompanying knowledge of tradition, has been allowed a normal growth. There is no crowding of impressions, no purposeless prodigalities or extraordinary climaxes, but, on the contrary, there is a seeming disdain for facile effects, and there is a stealing sense of harmony, which leaves with the observer a treasure of soothing impressions."

Some descriptive details of the cathedral follow in Miss Parkinson's article. We quote:

"The structure (three hundred and sixty feet in length), consisting of a nave with aisles on either side, a crossing and transepts, and choir (ninety feet in length), with aisles and ambulatory [ambulatory-aisles surrounding the east end of the choir], already produces charming effects of light and line, and recalls, in the ribbed vaulting, pointed arches, slender shafts, and continuous piers reaching from the pavement to the vaulting, some of the best Gothic architecture of France, which is, of course, the original home of 'pure Gothic.'"

The Amiens cathedral in France, says the writer, "is recalled slightly by the choir at Albany—that is, as to the somewhat similar treatment of the triforium, and the ribbed vaulting and slender shafts." One feature of the structure at Albany is, however, "thoroughly English in design," namely, the absence of the apsidal form—the semicircular termination of the sanctuary. The apse is to be found in most of the Gothic cathedrals in France. Continuing the account of the Albany cathedral we read:

"The choir is ninety-five feet in width, including the aisles, and



Courtesy of "The Outlook."

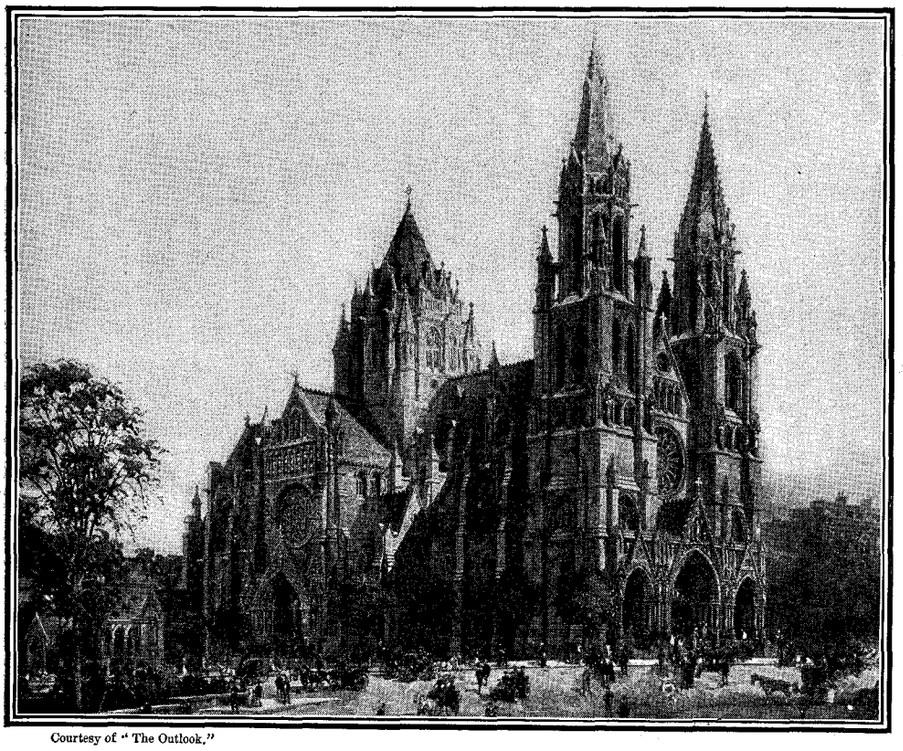
THE CHOIR AND LANTERN.
From the architect's drawing, showing how they will appear when completed.

the height of the walls of the clearstory is eighty feet from the street. The triforium consists of two arches in each bay, encompassing a sub-order of two pointed arches on clustered shafts, whose small capitals are admirably adjusted in shape to the sections which they carry. In the clearstory the arched openings fill almost the entire space between the vaults and are subdivided into two long arched windows below and a small circular window above. This whole upper structure of triforium and clearstory is remarkable for its lightness and elegance of design, and affords an admirable illustration of Gothic art. . . . .

"The whole interior of the building is of stone, of a soft, tender brown color, which in the north and south transepts is enriched by two magnificent rose windows (the so-called Bishop's and Dean's eye) modeled on traditional lines; and altho the leading of the north transept window is far too heavy for the exquisite tracery of the design, when gilded with sunlight the depth of the contrasting shades of red, purple, blue, etc., is brought out with vivid effect."

The exterior of the cathedral, we read, is ultimately to be of stone, and of the aspect of the great western façade to be added to the present structure the writer thinks too much praise can not be given. We read further:

"The general scheme resembles somewhat (without the costly elaboration and square towers) some of the



Courtesy of "The Outlook."

CATHEDRAL OF ALL SAINTS, ALBANY.
From the design of the architect, Mr. Robert W. Gibson.

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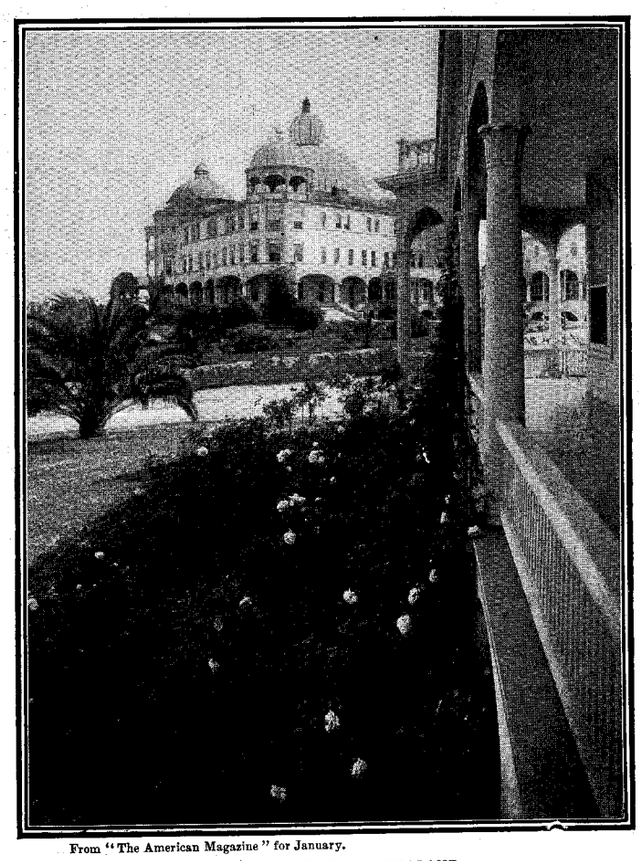
French cathedrals. On the ground story are three arched and beautifully carved portals, giving access respectively to the nave and two aisles. The divisions are admirably proportioned and subdivided, and stretch almost across the entire front of the façade. In the center of the gable are a small wheel window above and five arched openings below, beneath which and directly above the central portal is a vast wheel window, which is flanked on either side by towers. . . . . .

"The dome, or lantern tower, which is to be added to the Cathedral over the transept crossing, recalls slightly the old Salamanca Cathedral in Spain. The dome, as such, is not exactly a 'pure' Gothic feature, nor can it always be developed in a Gothic direction; it is seldom seen in French cathedrals, tho frequently to be found in England. But this is not a common dome. The outside is of good proportion and interesting form. The vertical structure appears from the drawing to be a polygon, and is treated in a way that produces an effective system of abutments. . . . With its traceried windows and small towers of rich ornamental design, it forms a most satisfactory effect. Thus in this building a clever mingling of French, English, and Spanish characteristics is manifest, and its beauty of design and elegance of form are noteworthy."

"As one stands in this impressive and noble Cathedral of Albany," concludes the writer, "with its spaciousness of line and curve, its massive walls of tender brown, its beauty of carved detail, and wealth of historic names on pillar and window, it seems to have a fine quality of tradition and aloofness."



From "The American Magazine" for January.

THE HOMESTEAD AT LOMALAND,

Where life is organized upon models diverse from the outside world.

From "The American Magazine" for January.

MRS. KATHERINE TINGLEY,

The autocrat of the institution, "a clear, strong, practical mind."

WHERE THEOSOPHY IS PUT INTO PRACTISE.

POINT LOMA, the home of the theosophical brotherhood in California, is, according to investigations made by Mr. Ray Stannard Baker, a practical realization of "the evolution philosophy of Spencer and Darwin carried out to its logical and ultimate expression; teaching that the law of progressive development . . . works in the realm of the spiritual existence as it does in that of physical existence." The settlement presents, according to his article in *The American Magazine* (January), "a group of cultivated men and women, inspired or perverted, according to one's point of view, by a faith so ardent, so strange to ordinary knowledge, that they had left their former homes, their business, and even their friends and relatives, had settled upon a far and wonderfully beautiful point of land reaching out into the Pacific Ocean from Southern California, and were there seeking the ideal life as they conceived it." Most of the residents, declares Mr. Baker, are cultivated people, many are wealthy, some very wealthy. He continues, in surveying the membership:

"It is not so surprizing to find artists, musicians, literary men, professors, and inventors in such an institution; men who naturally dream dreams; they are found in every communal experiment; but it is certainly remarkable that the same influence has attracted hard-headed men who have been for years in active business life and have made fortunes; but there are many such men at Point Loma. In the same way people from all walks of life have been attracted—printers, carpenters, teamsters, electricians, bookkeepers—so that the institution, so far as its work is concerned, is practically self-contained. . . . . .

"Among the prominent members of the brotherhood are: A. G. Spalding, the famous sporting-goods manufacturer; W. C. Temple, wealthy Pittsburg manufacturer; Clark Thurston, former president American Screw Company; F. M. Pierce, of the Pierce Engineering Company of New York; W. Ross White, prominent Georgia manufacturer; W. F. Hanson, Georgia inventor of cotton-weaving machine; R. Machele, English artist; Miss Herbert, sister of the former British Minister to the United States. Ex-Secretary Gage, tho not a member, is a resident at Point Loma, and deeply interested in it."

Life in this community is entirely diverse from the models provided by the outside world. Children are educated somewhat after the manner of the old Greek ideals. Family life disappears. The training of children even from infancy, and the prosecution of household duties, such especially as pertain to eating, are conducted on the cooperative plan. Everybody works, but each elects the work he likes best. "The lawyer of the institution . . . diversifies his legal work by superintending the vegetable garden." His wife cooks in the kitchen. The leader of the orchestra takes a turn at gate-tending; a writer for *The New Century Path*, the organ of the brotherhood, may do a turn as a mender of roads. All are students. Music and the drama, home-produced, are among the recreations. "They have produced among other plays 'The Eumenides' of Æschylus in the open-air theater under conditions of climate and sky and with costumes which must have made the performance a close duplication of those of ancient Greece." "And it is not unhumorous," continues Mr. Baker, "not uncharacteristic, to note that during the production of this play newspaper reporters hid on the hillside, watching from afar,

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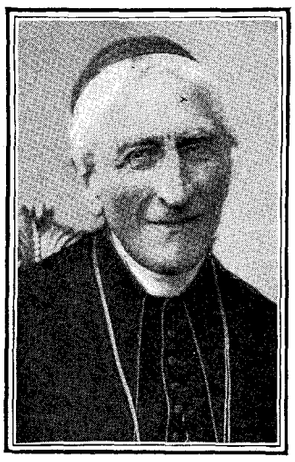
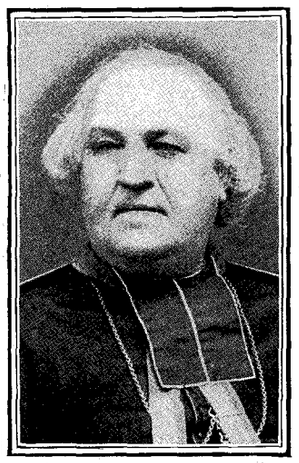
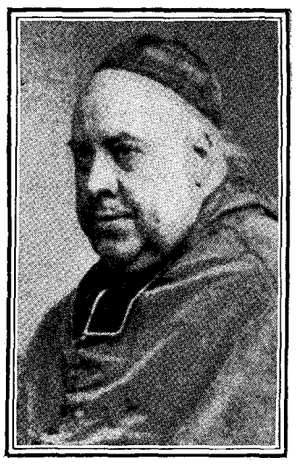


FRANÇOIS MARIE BENJAMIN RICHARD, Archbishop of Paris.

PIERRE HECTOR COUILLÉ, Archbishop of Lyons.



VICTOR LUCIEN SULPICE LECOT, Archbishop of Bordeaux.



FRANÇOIS DÉSIRÉ MATHIEU, Former Archbishop of Toulouse.

SOME CARDINALS OF FRANCE.

and wrote fervid accounts of the mystic and occult rites and ceremonies of the people of Point Loma!"

"Some hidden incentive," remarks Mr. Baker, "some singular faith, has here apparently set up an entirely new standard of life." To understand Point Loma, he asserts, "one must not only see the leader, but must understand something of the philosophy from which the work draws its breath of life." We give, first, some quotations from Mr. Baker's words concerning the leader, Mrs. Katherine Tingley:

"I spent a whole day at Point Loma before I met Mrs. Katherine Tingley. And all that time I was saying to myself: To do this or that, a leader must have such a quality, or such, or such; for 'every institution is the lengthened shadow of a man.'

"Here, I said, is certainly a seeing faith, else the desert would never have yielded such a product; here, also, is a gift of the constructive imagination; and the training of these children, many of whom are waifs and orphans, indicates humanity. I saw, also, in the orderly growth of the work, a capacity, somewhere, for administration; I saw, moreover, a keen eye for human nature, for without that, what grave errors might have been made in the selection of those who were to reside at the institution—errors that might, through dissensions, have cost the life of the institution. And finally, and predominantly, I felt a will at work—a despotic will, before which every person in the institution bowed—in love, or respect, or fear, or all three combined. . . . . .

"May I venture to describe her?

"The first and perhaps the strongest impression she gives is one of virility—life. A stout woman of medium height, without a gray hair in her head, and dark, restless, eager eyes. Her dress imprest even the unobservant eyes of a man by its elegance; her step was decided; her voice imperative. She is preeminently the power of the institution; a clear, strong, practical mind. . . . . .

"I have spoken of Mrs. Tingley as a strong leader. She is more than that; she is a complete autocrat. She says herself: 'The government of the Universal Brotherhood is autocratic and rests entirely in the hands of the leader and official head, who has the privilege of nominating her successor.'"

The dogmatic basis of the life at Point Loma does not demand of the brotherhood a hard-and-fast subscription. "The Universal Brotherhood organization," says one of its pamphlets, "is for the purpose of carrying to men the message of theosophy and brotherhood. No assent to dogma is, however, required, only a full acceptance of the principle of brotherhood, and an honest attempt to realize it in life." Some account of what theosophists believe is given by Mr. Baker as follows:

"Theosophists do not believe in a personal god, but in 'an all-pervading supreme spirit,' the 'ever-unknowable,' who appears throughout the universe as a 'majestic and unchanging law.' Christ they follow as one of the greatest of the great teachers. He is divine with the same divinity which is in all men, only in him in greater degree. They believe in 'the divine and the animal in each of us, and our power to choose which we will.' 'Each man can be his own savior, can apportion joy or pain to himself, can at any moment turn to the divine light within himself, and begin, little by little, in spite of any number of failings and failures, to grow nearer to it.' They teach what is called Karma, the 'law of relentless justice.' And, finally, they believe in the doctrine of reincarnation."

AMERICAN CATHOLIC PRELATES AND PRESS ON THE FRENCH SEPARATION.

THE opinions of American Catholic prelates and of the Catholic press on the French church situation assumes importance in the light of the Pope's words upon receiving Archbishop Farley's cablegram of sympathy. Commenting upon it the Pope said: "It is the heart of America that consoles us. The largest center of Catholicism is in the United States." Both prelates and press agree that ultimately the church must triumph. Cardinal Gibbons, in replying to an editorial of the New York *Times* asserting that he attached too much importance to the binding force of "a musty parchment—an obsolete formulary," says in a special statement:

"Honest men do not hold that they have acquitted themselves of their obligations by letting their due bills run till they are dusty and grimy with age. Neither do they question that the legitimate heirs of their creditors succeed to the lawful rights of their testators; and as right-minded moralists do not set up one code of conduct for private individuals and another for public functionaries. They hold that the law 'Thou shalt not steal' applies to states as well as citizens. This higher view is just the one which the French Government took of their obligations as embodied in that solemn form of bilateral contract known as the Concordat."

The cardinal declares that a case analogous to the present French crisis would be "to suppose that the New York Legislature passed a bill confiscating without compensation Trinity Church with its valuable endowments." He further comments on *The Times's* editorial by saying: "All that the Legislature would have to do to justify their act, according to this writer, would be to remind the rector and vestry that their charter was granted by a government long since superseded by our own and to beneficiaries 'long since moldered into dust.'"

In Cardinal Gibbons's appeal to the American people for sympathy with the Catholics in France he said, after reviewing the situation:

"I say, if my countrymen can see and recognize all this injustice and tyranny and cruelty, and refuse genuine sympathy to those who suffer by them because of their religious belief, then I will

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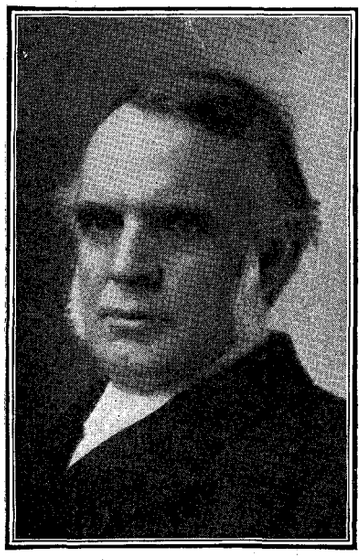
leave life without that faith in American love of justice and liberty and humanity which has been my comfort and support and hope during a long career."

The Standard and Times (Philadelphia), the organ of Archbishop Ryan, characterizes the scenes of eviction in Paris as "showing the extremes to which an anti-Christian ministry, in power for a time, can resort," and expresses the opinion that "France will yet awaken to the dangers of such a ministry." *The Catholic Mirror* (Baltimore) participates in the faith that the church will triumph. It says:



THE LATE BISHOP CHARLES C. M'CABE, Whose services as a money-raiser were invaluable to his church.

"That France is worried, there is little room to doubt. The very vindictiveness of her course is proof of that. She realizes the staying powers of the church, and trusts all to the fierceness of the first blows. Her misguided statesmen evidently imagine that their terrific onslaught will unnerve the Vatican, sweep it off its feet, so to speak; and that in the ensuing confusion it will only remain for them to dictate the terms of peace. How are they mistaken! The more positive its assailment, the more sturdy is the resistance of the church. Such action as that of France has bred martyrs in the past, and will do so again."

The New York *Freeman's Journal* describes the spirit animating the rulers of France as that of "brutal vindictiveness." "An Irish landlord," it continues, "never showed less regard for evicted tenants than has been displayed by the French Government in expelling the French hierarchy and clergy from their homes." The editor of this paper, Rev. Dr. L. A. Lambert, exclaims after a review of the situation:

"Let us say in passing that we sincerely hope that the French police courts will be crowded with priests who elect to obey God rather than Cæsar. Fines and imprisonments should not have the effect of preventing priests from 'offering the holy sacrifice of the mass. If the atheists who are clothed with a little brief authority have rendered it necessary to make an appeal to the higher law they should not have to wait long before learning that such appeals have been made in every French parish."

The New York *Catholic News* in commenting upon the view taken by secular papers, that the Pope in refusing to comply with the provisions of the new law "assumes a lawless attitude," says:

"When England more than a century and a quarter ago strove to enforce unjust laws upon the American colonists they, too, refused to accept them. The Pope is doing practically the very same thing as Washington and the other American patriots did. They sought justice; so is he seeking it. They strove to defend their rights. That is precisely what the Pope and the French hierarchy are doing. Washington in the estimation of all honest men was a hero and a patriot. But the Pope is set down as a lawbreaker. There is no moral obligation to obey unjust laws, and men who have resisted them in all ages have been proclaimed as benefactors of mankind."

In conclusion this paper asserts:

"Every honest man who examines the case dispassionately will admit that the church has assumed the only logical position. She will triumph in the end. Even if every church building, seminary, and presbytery in France is confiscated the church will not perish. God is on her side, and, as the Pope is reported to have said, 'Nothing will stop us, neither persecution nor martyrdom, in protecting our religion. Our cause is God's cause.'"

"CHAPLAIN" McCABE'S GREAT SERVICES TO HIS CHURCH.

BISHOP CHARLES C. McCABE, even better known as "Chaplain" McCabe, who died in New York city last week, was noted among the Methodist denomination for his ability as a money-raiser for church purposes. He did it, says a Cleveland minister who enjoyed close intimacy with the bishop, by his great personal magnetism and "by a gentle sort of flattery, which made his hearers feel satisfied with themselves." "He praises them for what they have done instead of scolding them for what they have not done, and they are impelled to do more in self-defense." His career as a money-raiser, we learn from a notice following his death, published in the New York *Times*, began the year after the war, when he reentered the regular ministry. We quote:

"He was asked to help raise money for the Ohio Wesleyan University, where he had studied in earlier years. At this time he was attending the centennial jubilee of American Methodism. He spent two years laboring for the university and raised $87,000. At the centennial McCabe's brilliancy had attracted the attention of Dr. A. J. Kynett, then secretary of the Church Extension Society. After swelling the treasury funds of the university the young minister was elected agent for the Board of Church Extension, in which capacity, and as corresponding secretary, he labored for sixteen years, swelling the annual income of the organization to $300,000 and establishing a permanent capital for the loan fund of $500,000.

"In 1884 Dr. McCabe became secretary of the Methodist Church Missionary Society. At the time there was urgent need of funds, and the new secretary at once raised a cry of 'A million a year for missions.' By his own efforts and through the enthusiasm he aroused in others, he was able to bring about the desired condition of affairs within two years, and from that time the Methodist Church has never raised less than $1,000,000 each year for missionary purposes. More than 100,000 converts in foreign lands came into the Methodist Church during the 'Chaplain's' period of office as secretary."

Other money-raising activities are associated with the rehearsal of events which gave him his most wide-spread fame. Chaplain McCabe was with the Army of the Potomac, under General Grant, in nearly all the great battles from Rapidan to Appomattox. At the battle of Winchester he was taken prisoner and lodged in Libby Prison, where he was confined for four months. "At the time his courage and optimism did much to make easier the lot of his fellow prisoners," and for years afterward he described the prison life there in his famous lecture "The Bright Side of Life in Libby Prison," which brought in over $250,000, all of which went into the treasury of the Methodist Church. The cry of "Two Churches a Day" associated with his name is accounted for in the following manner:

"When he was connected with the Church Extension Movement the cry of 'Two Churches a Day!' was raised, and the Methodist Church was soon erecting sanctuaries at that rate.

"About the same time, and possibly due to the aggressiveness of the Methodists, a conference of infidels was called at Syracuse. Robert Ingersoll presided, and a resolution was adopted to the effect that 'Christianity is a failure.' On hearing this, Bishop McCabe wired Ingersoll:

"'Dear Bob: We are building two churches a day nevertheless.'"

At the Detroit Methodist Episcopal Conference at Ishpeming, Mich., last September, Bishop McCabe, in a sermon on "Religious Liberty," showed his old-time fighting spirit. According to the New York *Evening Post* he said:

"We, as a nation, are for peace. We don't want any more war. I am, as a general thing, opposed to war, but I'd like to see one more war—one against the Sultan of Turkey—and I'd like to participate in it. I'd like to see Dewey, with a fleet, sail up the Bosporus. We don't want any more such rulers as the Sultan of Turkey and the Czar of Russia. In every case in history we find God has raised great leaders at proper times, and we need have no fear about the future of Russia."

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LETTERS AND ART.

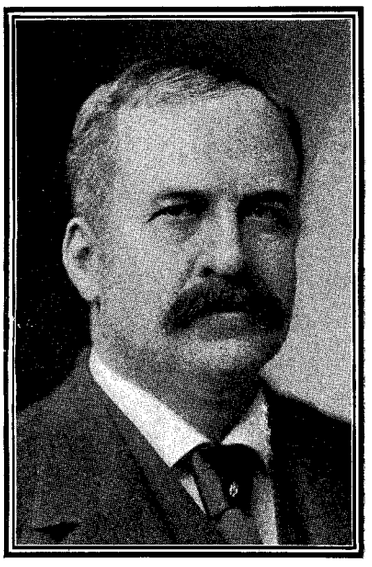
A PRACTICAL APOSTLE OF THE "KINGDOM OF LIGHT."

A MAN of business, a lawyer, withdrawing from active concerns of life to a spot where nature is most beautiful, and talking to his comrades of the "Kingdom of Light," is a remarkable illustration of Browning's lines, "Grow old along with me, The best is yet to be, The end of life for which the first was made." Such is Mr. George Record Peck in his capacity of essayist for the Phantom Club. This club of fourteen gentlemen meet annually near Phantom Lake, Wisconsin, and during this holiday devote one evening to exercises more or less literary in character. Mr. Peck, who is general counsel of the Chicago, Milwaukee, and St. Paul Railway Company and the recently retired president of the American Bar Association, makes in his paper an eloquent appeal for consideration of the things of the mind and the spirit, which, says the editor of *Putnam's Monthly* (New York, December), "comes with special force from the lips of a lawyer immersed in arduous professional labors." Mr. Peck, in addressing his fellow club-members, remarked that "all experience has shown that it is at our age, or thereabouts, that men are most prone to grow weary." He does not impute to his fellows "that they are not already dedicated to high purposes, and enrolled among those who stand for the nobler and better things of human life." He wishes to emphasize the fact that when once one's education is finished, serious thoughts are often no longer given to mental growth:

"Granting all that can be claimed for lack of time, for the food and clothing to be bought, and the debts to be paid, the truth remains—and I beg you to remember it—the person who allows his mental and spiritual nature to stagnate and decay does so not for want of time, but for want of inclination. The farm, the shop, and the office are not such hard masters as we imagine. We yield too easily to their sway, and set them up as rulers when they ought to be only servants. There is no vocation—absolutely none—that cuts off entirely the opportunities for intellectual development. The Kingdom of Light is an especially delightful home for him whose purse is not of sufficient weight to provide a home elsewhere, and a humble cottage in the Kingdom can be made to shine with a brightness above palace walls. For my part I would rather have been Charles Lamb than the Duke of Wellington, and his influence in the world is incalculably the greater of the two. And yet he was but a clerk in the India House, poor in pocket, but rich beyond measure in his very poverty, whose jewels are not in the goldsmith's list. The problem of life is rightly to adjust the prose to the poetry; the sordid to the spiritual; the common and selfish to the high and beneficent, forgetting not that these last are incomparably the more precious."

Modern life, he declares, is a startling contradiction. "Never were colleges so numerous, so prosperous, so richly endowed as now. . . . But yet, what Carlyle perhaps too bitterly calls 'the mechanical spirit of the age' is upon us. The commercial spirit, too, is with us, holding its head so high that timid souls are frightened at its pretensions. It is the scholar's duty to set his face resolutely against both." He continues:

"I can never be the apostle of despair. The colors in the morning and the evening sky are brilliant yet. But I fear the scholar is not the force he once was and will again be when the twentieth century gets through its carnival of invention and construction. We have culture; what we need is the love of culture. We have knowledge; but our prayer should be, 'Give us the love of knowledge.' It may be wrong, but I sometimes wish nature would be more stingy of her secrets. She has given them out with so lavish a hand that some men think the greatest thing in the world is to persuade her to work in some newly invented harness. Edison and the other wizards of science have almost succeeded in making life automatic. Its chord is set to a minor key. Plain living and high thinking, that once went together, are transformed into high living and very plain thinking. The old-time simplicity of manners, the modest tastes of our fathers, have given way to the clang and clash, the noise and turbulence that characterize the age. We know too much; and too little. We know the law of evolution; but who can tell us when, or how, or why it came to be the law? We accept it as a great scientific truth, and as such it should be welcomed. But life has lost something of its zest, some of the glory that used to be in it, since we were told that mind is only an emanation of matter, a force or principle mechanically produced by molecular motion within the brain."



GEORGE RECORD PECK,
A lawyer "immersed in arduous professional duties," who preaches the gospel of the "Kingdom of Light."

The writer pleads that he be taken not as a preacher of "a gospel of mere sentiment, nor of inane, impracticable dilettanteism." We can not eat poetry, or art, or sunbeams. And yet, he adds, "I hold it true, now and always, that life without these things is shorn of more than half its value." It is with a force perhaps more appealing to a vauntedly practical people that these words come from one whose life is not absorbed in the "profession" of letters or art. We read in conclusion:

"It is because I believe so strongly in the saving power of the intellectual life upon the institutions of society, and upon the welfare of individuals, that I plead so earnestly for it. The fortunes of science, art, literature, and government are indissolubly linked with it. The centers and shrines of the most potent influences are not the seats of commerce and capital. The village of Concord, where Emerson, Hawthorne, Alcott, and Thoreau lived, was, in their day, and will long continue to be, a greater force in this nation than New York and Chicago added to each other. We may rest in the assured faith that, whoever may *seem* to rule, the thinker is, and always will be, the master."

THE INDISPENSABLE ELEMENT IN FICTION.

FICTION-MAKERS who fail to persuade editors of the worth of their wares, and turn to the hospitable column of the daily press where personal grievances are purveyed, may find something to reflect upon in the words of a veteran editor. In the Editor's Study of *Harper's Magazine* (December) Mr. Henry M. Alden discourses as follows on the indispensable element of good fiction:

"The most frequent defect in fiction submitted for magazine use, and, we might add, in most of the fiction that somehow gets published in book form, is its lack of spontaneity in construction and expression. The writer of this manufactured fiction has a certain precalculated effect in view, with reference to which he ambitiously contrives every incident and situation of his story. The harder he tries the more surely he fails of any genuine appeal to his readers. If he disguises his labor by a facile mastery of dramatic material and expression, he may succeed in reaching crude sensibilities and, because of his lower aim, may outsell his betters. The multitude is easily captivated by splendid artifice, which, in exceptional instances, has compelled the admiration of even the judicious. We shall find, however, upon close examination, that in such instances the writer has not by his strenuous effort wholly closed the door against all spontaneity. Poe came very near to the exclusion, in his short stories, of such genius as was in him; but because he was by temperament a poet, a lover therefore of haunting melody and easily the creator of pregnant atmospheres, he could not completely shut himself out of his

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fiction. In our day polite literature must appeal to human sympathies, and the writer's fertility of invention is of little service.

"The demand upon the writer of fiction, then, is upon his very life as a part of the common life of humanity and in harmony with all things natural. He creates because the life in him is creative. His communication with his readers, like the communication of life and nature with him, is creative. He is sure of being understood because he understands, sure of sympathy because he is comprehendingly sympathetic.

"The writer of fiction who has not life in its quickness and its eager awareness, in its buoyant uplifting and delight, may as well lay his pen aside. If the wood, the meadow, the flowers, and the songs of the birds and the laughter of children have no compelling charm for him; if he is not thrilled by the beauty of women and the supple strength of youth; if he does not drink deeply of the wine of life and is not deeply moved by its pathos, his imagination is stagnant at its fountain. The joy and pain of the heart are the mothers of all the graces and dignities of life and literature."

NEW ARTISTIC EXPRESSIONS IN DANCING.

A DISTINCT renaissance of the art of dancing has appeared in recent years in which the modern exponents of this ancient art use its graces to tell a story or express an emotion. Mr. Hamilton Bell, who notes this renaissance in one of the January magazines, admits regretfully that so far the enthusiasm of the expositors of this art is not met by an equal enthusiasm on the part of audiences, tho hopes are exprest for improvement in this direction through the cultivation of "a corresponding intelligence and sympathy." With a certain degree of reserve the writer accounts for the revival of interest in dancing as due to the teachings of Nietzsche; if this can not be proved, he declares that "it is at all events a curious coincidence, not only that the spread of his doctrines and that of the cult of the New Dance should have been contemporaneous but that both should have taken deepest root" in Germany. It is there, curiously enough, that the most notable of American dancers have gained the highest recognition. Says Mr. Bell in *Appleton's Magazine*:

"Miss Isidora Duncan, for instance, who was an all but total failure here, has her own theater and lyceum in Düsseldorf, where she reigns as a sort of high priestess of her art. Miss Loie Fuller, too, had to found her success in this country on her European triumphs, and Miss St. Denis, after all the enthusiasm of her comparatively limited audiences in New York last winter, has entered on a long engagement in Europe, where she is already meeting with the recognition her beautiful achievement deserves."

MISS ISIDORA DUNCAN,
In one of her dances illustrating the "Rubaiyat" of Omar Khayyam.

The performances of such modern dancers as are mentioned above, says Mr. Bell, "seem to achieve the rank of artistic demonstrations of an emotion or an episode in much the same manner as does a picture, poem, or musical composition, and so become worthy to be classed as works of art." We read further:

"This is accomplished by an appeal on the part of the dancer to the eye, which is closely related to the appeal of the musician to the ear; the one feels the beauty of cadence and emphasis in motion in exactly the same way as the other feels it in sound, and the message must always be to the individual in the same quality and degree. A story may or may not be told by either art, but it is quite superfluous to the achievement, and if it is included becomes merely a peg on which to hang a series of lovely movements or exquisite sounds. Dancing to music is always more delightful than either alone, because more senses are pleased at once and because additional pleasure is derived from the harmony of sound and motion and their action and reaction on one another; this third harmony is the reason of the great pleasure afforded by the spectacle of two or more persons dancing together. Indeed, it rarely happens that these two pleasures can be dissociated, since the emotion which finds expression in song is apt to seek other forms of expression, even if only by marking time; a crowd sways in unison with a stirring air, and a jaded regiment pulls itself together and marches in time when the band strikes up."

Mr. Bell describes the dances of "Miss H. J., a young Philadelphian artist" whose inspiration and attire are derived from the Japanese. No music accompanies her dancing because none has been found "exactly fitted to her conceptions." She performs in a darkened drawing-room. She suggests, says the writer, "impressions in a rhythmical sequence, movements forming, dissolving, and re-forming into momentary pictures in the soft candlelight." Something of the burden placed upon the mind of the spectator of these dances in divining the purposes of the performer may be gathered from the words of "Miss H. J." in describing her intent in her "Dance of the Creation." She says:

"In the 'Dance of the Creation' I had the idea of a mural decoration in movement—as far removed from Miss Duncan's dances as the Greeks were from the Japanese in their conceptions of art—conventionalizing each pose to its least expression, making of it a symbol. The first movement shows Earth, projected from the glance of Buddha, reading in the lightning the message of Creation, Destruction, and Death. With complete acceptance of the decree she vows her children to the sword—the emblem of battle, by means of which the tyranny of the senses is vanquished and destroyed, and the soul liberated is able to return to Buddha.

"The next is the Coming of Man. Blindly he questions the Infinite for the reason of his creation. He receives no reply, but his awakening perceptions are challenged by the cry of the senses. He plunges into battle, fights, receives his death-blow, and falls. Not till the death of the senses come perfect consciousness, the true vision of the Infinite, and the perception of man's relation to God.

"In the last movement the Earth Mother repassed without the sword, a promise of the higher forms to come."

It would seem, comments Mr. Bell, as if no movements could convey these ideas to a spectator, "but it was done, tho no words of mine can give any impression of how it was done, as no words can render the effect upon the hearer of some poignant passage of Wagner; yet one felt it keenly and deeply."

The dances of Miss St. Denis are of two kinds, descriptive and symbolic. The one that made the deepest impression when this dancer appeared in New York last winter, tho its conception and effect were much simpler than the one described above, is called the "Cobra dance," in which Miss St. Denis simulates the moods and movements of serpents. We quote from Mr. Bell's account:

"Casting off an enveloping mantle, Miss St. Denis reveals her arms clasped over her bosom and shoulders. On the fore and little fingers of each hand are large rings, each of a single brilliant stone. Thus equipped her slender brown arms suggest a pair of

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the deadly serpents of India. Standing erect, kneeling, crouching, lying on the ground, she simulates with her hands and arms the movements of a couple of snakes writhing up and down her body, fighting, making love, wreathing and twining in a thousand sinuous coils till the primitive human horror of the reptile almost culminates in the shudder which would be evoked by the sight of the creatures themselves.

"All Miss St. Denis's most conspicuous successes are achieved by this power of sustained, continuous, rippling movement, which produces on one's senses exactly the effect of the progress of a serpent. Every one knows that the reptile advances by holding on to the ground with the edge of its belly scales, to the extremities of each of which are attached the tips of a pair of ribs; but so bewilderingly complicated are its lateral and other movements in every possible direction that this simple action is disguised until it becomes all but indistinguishable except to a close observer and when the animal is moving very slowly and directly. It is precisely by this process of elaboration of a number of simultaneous movements that Miss St. Denis produces her effects. Add to this a beautifully proportioned and lithe figure and you have an ensemble of extraordinary charm and grace."

Photo by Alice Boughton.

"RADHA" (MISS ST. DENIS),

In the pose of the preliminary incantation to "Radha," or dance of the senses. It is a symbolic dance, employing such properties as flowers, wine, etc., all the senses being expressed through the medium of waving hands and woven paces.

WHAT WATCHMEN TELL US OF THE MORNING IN MUSIC.

WHAT the music of to-morrow will be is a stimulating question. Mr. Daniel Gregory Mason thinks it will return to something of the "beauty of form and richness of expression" of the classicists; while Mr. Lawrence Gilman believes it will engage itself in the search "for a still more intimate, luminous, and eloquent means of restoring to us that sense of the invisible which music, preeminently among the arts, is fitted to convey." Evidently the latter writer thinks it would be rash to prophesy what will happen the day after to-morrow, for he declares that the "characteristic phases of musical art are becoming, it would seem, of shorter and shorter duration," since "music is, in its present estate, the most fluid, the most mercurial, of esthetic phenomena." Much more conservative in his method of treatment is Mr. Mason in the introductory chapter to his recent work on "The Romantic Composers." Schubert, Schumann, Mendelssohn, Chopin, Berlioz, and Liszt are the men he studies; and through them he notes how the "potentialities for vivid and detailed expression have been permanently raised by the subjective intentness of the modern temperament." The work still to be done is, to his view, something of the following nature:

"It remains for future composers to make a new synthesis of all these novel elements, and without sacrificing their vividness to impose upon them the ultimate integrity of impression which at present they too often lack. A classical unity and beauty must supervene upon our romantic multiplicity and interesting confusion. Expression, without losing the minuteness that modern speculation has gained for it, must regain something of the classical serenity."

Mr. Gilman, however, in his new volume, entitled "The Music of To-morrow," expects to find ever deeper soul-explorations in the cadences that are to assume the ascendency in the immediate future. Their harbingers are the younger French school, to whose modernity "even the modernity of Strauss is become . . . a little outmoded." "That nine-days' harmonic wonder of a decade ago," says Mr. Gilman (*protesting at the same time that he speaks without the slightest wish to provoke the conservative or to divert the frivolous and the blasé*), "the conflicting tonalities at the end of 'Ein Heldenleben,' falls upon the ear of our day with an effect as little stimulating as that of a conventional cadence; and the luxuriant chromatics of 'Tristan and Isolde'—with which the history of music turned a memorable page—sound almost elementary in comparison with the procedures of the younger French school." Two figures representing this movement are singled out for special mention. One of these, Mr. Charles M. Loeffler, is a resident of Boston. Of the general character of the music of to-morrow Mr. Gilman writes as follows:

"Strauss represents, it would appear, a declining impulse—the impulse toward an incessant exploitation of the dynamic element in life. There is another and more enduring impulse—that which urges us to listen, not for the echoes of passional and adventurous conflict, but for the vibrations of the spirit beneath. Even in our own day there are tone-poets who, like Turgenef, 'weave great romances out of what did not happen'; musicians who are sympathetic kinsmen of such spiritual adventurers as Mr. Maeterlinck and Mr. Yeats in the common and significant reaction against those who are ever, in Mr. Arthur Walkley's vivacious phrase, 'on the prowl for "documents"'; who dwell upon the confines of a crepuscular world whose every phase is full of subtle portent, and who are convinced that 'there are in man many regions more fertile, more profound, and more interesting than those of his reason or his intelligence.' The temperament and ideals of Mr. Maeterlinck, most representative and insatiable of modern mystics, find a partial analog, for example, in the music of Charles Martin Loeffler—a cosmopolitan in his art as in his life, whose concern with the things that are actual and present in the world of the imagination is almost wholly negligible; who evokes in his art a beauty, an emotion, which issue from

'A more dream-heavy land,
A more dream-heavy hour
than this. . . .'

and whose inspiration comes to him tinged with the remoteness and the fascination of a spiritual solitude. And in France there is Claude Debussy, the subtlest temperament in European music, who is employing his luminous and recondite art in the weaving of a hesitant mysticism into designs of impalpable and iridescent beauty. These are only several, as they are the most eminent, of those dreamers and poets who are voicing a spirit that is abroad among the arts and among those whose thought is both sensitive and profound. For them, as George Russell (himself a mystic of exquisite temper) has said revealingly of Mr. Yeats's poetic

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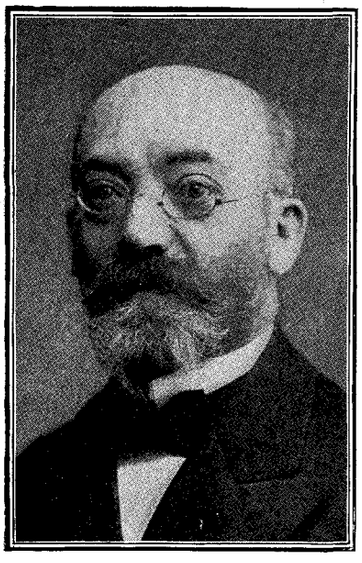
personages, 'even in the swaying of a hand or the dropping of hair there is less suggestion of individual action than of a divinity living within, shaping an elaborate beauty in a dream of its own delight . . .' And what he says further is not less applicable to that tendency in modern music in which I like to descry an augury for the future. 'Other poets,' he observes, 'have written of a wisdom overshadowing man and speaking through his lips, or a will working within the human will, but I think that in this poetry we find for the first time the revelation of the spirit as the weaver of beauty.'"

FORWARD MOVEMENT OF ESPERANTO.

ESPERANTO seems not only to be "in the air," but on the point of alighting upon the earth. If signs do not fail, something in the nature of a propaganda is discernible in publishing quarters. For some weeks various organs of the religious press have been publishing a primer in Esperanto for beginners, and now, in the issue of *The North American Review* for December 7, we see the announcement that this weighty and influential review will print another. Its reason for doing this service to the new language is to aid in establishing "its practicability for ordinary commercial usage," assured, it believes, "of the ease of acquirement," owing, as the London *Spectator* remarks, "to the irreducible minimum of grammar and the simplicity of its vocabulary." The proof of the utility of Esperanto has been demonstrated in a number of instances, we are shown in an article by Prof. George Macloskie, of Princeton University, in another part of the same issue of *The Review*. Speaking of those who are already employers of the new *lingua franca* he says:



LUDWIG L. ZAMENHOF,
Inventor of Esperanto.

"Remembering that some . . . are grandly idealistic and poetical in their contact with this subject, I must confess that most of the crowd are only commonplace people who fancy that the international tongue can be of service one way or other. Of this sort I suppose are the army and navy officers, who hope to find it useful in their relations, friendly or otherwise, with outsiders; and the London business people and county councils, who are spreading it through the schools with small regard for its idealism; and the worthy Roman Catholic friends, like the French priests, who are said to be turning the Gospel of Mark into Esperanto; and men like Editor Peltier of Tours, and Dr. O'Connor of London, whose excellent text-book is used by many of us. These have been publishing a 'Catholic Esperanto,' for religious purposes, and were recently commended by the Pope for their service. Their advertisement contains a recommendation of the language as useful to missionaries who are scattered afar, and who are now able to communicate only by writing in Latin. On seeing this notice it occurred to me that it would be good for our Protestant missionaries if we had a portion of the Gospels Esperantized, so that they and their assistants, always having the Gospels in their vernaculars, might easily learn the *lingvo* for mutual correspondence. Dr. Wherry, the Indian missionary, informs me that missionaries in Borneo are already using it for corresponding with their patrons in Europe."

Now that the acceptance of the language as a utilitarian medium of communication has been made in some quarters, it evidently appears to its advocates time to emphasize the idealism at the base of the movement. Dr. Zamenhof, the inventor of the speech, who insisted at the first congress, which assembled at Boulogne, that only the utility of the language should be emphasized, dwelt upon this other phase of the subject at the second congress of Esperantists, held recently. We quote the following passage from his address:

"To the indifferent world Esperanto can be only a matter of practical utility. Every one who uses Esperanto or who works in its behalf is an Esperantist; and every Esperantist has a perfect right to see in Esperanto merely a language, simple, unemotional, calculated to be understood by all the nations, like the marine signal code, tho more perfect. These Esperantists will probably not come to our congresses, or else they will come only for purposes of practical explanation or for a cold discussion of purely linguistic and academic questions; they will take no part in our joy and enthusiasm, which to them will perhaps seem naive and childlike. But those Esperantists who have joined our movement not only with their heads, but also with their hearts, will always particularly feel and value the inner *idea* of Esperanto; they will not be afraid to be mockingly called utopians by the world, or to have national chauvinists attack their ideal as tho it were a crime. They will be proud of the name 'utopian.' Every new congress will strengthen their love for the underlying idea of Esperantism, and little by little our annual congresses will become a continual feast of humanity and of human brotherhood."

With an apparent sympathy for the "idealistic" view of Dr. Zamenhof, *The North American Review*, editorially, expresses its surprize that he refused to sound this note at the beginning of his crusade. How the world has suffered through the lack of such a universal language it points out as follows:

"It is an indubitable fact that, from the earliest times, among primitive beings and savage tribes, to the present days of comparative enlightenment, practically all strife has arisen from a determination of one part of the race to force the acceptance by another of an unfamiliar language, a strange religion, or both. Wars without number have resulted from the mere difficulty of reaching an understanding through a mutually intelligible means of communication. Even as late as the past century, as frankly conceded at the recent celebration of the American Board of Foreign Missions, ignorance in men of different races of one another's true beliefs, and inability to make comprehensible exposition, have constituted the chief stumbling-blocks in the path of religious progression."

Surveying the most recent significant events in the history of Esperanto *The Review* continues:

"Two years ago, or more, the far-seeing Pope Pius X. testified his appreciation of this vital condition by conferring his benediction upon all Esperantists and their cause, and during the recent congress he authorized the celebration of a mass in Esperanto in a church of Geneva. On the same Sunday services in Esperanto were conducted in a Protestant church, affording, wrote the Frenchman René de Saussure, 'a very uncommon spectacle—the simultaneous Catholic mass and Protestant services, in the same language, enabling the people to choose between the preaching of an English clergyman and a Spanish priest.' And after the services, in the parks and on the quays of Geneva, 'all fraternized cordially, forgetting for a little while all of those things which under ordinary circumstances would have set them apart. In more than one spot I saw happy groups made up of priests and freethinkers, of socialists and military men. All these people chatted gaily together, as tho suddenly aware of the fact that, before being priests or socialists or soldiers, they were men. And I said to myself as I looked at them, surely these few days passed together must result in a great lesson in tolerance of all for all. Viewing these impressive indications and having in mind that the thousand enthusiastic members of the conference represented twenty-eight distinct nationalities from Iceland to Peru, Mr. Boirac, the famous French educator [and Academician], declared, 'The consequences of Esperanto, so far as concerns the future progress of humanity, will be hardly less important than those that followed the invention of printing.'"

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CURRENT POETRY.

The two poems following, "The Prayer of the Poet" and "The Merman and the Seraph," were awarded the first and second prizes in the competition established by *Poet Lore* (Boston). The general criticism made by the editors on the two hundred or more poems submitted to that magazine is that "our younger poets lack originality of theme and evenness of workmanship."

The Prayer of the Poet.

BY CURTIS HIDDEN PAGE.

I.

Oh, could I speak!
When I have won some hard rock-guarded peak
Of life and vision, then in ringing song
To speak new thought out strong—

In rock-hewn words to tell
With roughly rhythmic spell
The grandeur and the mystery of things,
The passion and the agony of life,
The glory of our conquerings—
The glory even of unconquering strife;

The wonder of the universe,
From every meanest blade that cuts the sod
To the great star-domed temple of our God,
Pulsing with restless, unknown force—

But most, of man's strong life, that would be all
And grasp the universe; that climbs to fall
And falls to rise and climb and fall again;

And of man's heart, that bears the biting pain
Of love imperfect, and forever strives
Toward perfect love, and by that striving lives;

And of man's thought, that seeks to know the why
And fails, and seeks again;
and of the soul,
That strives to be its infinite self again
And beats against its finite walls in vain.
Oh, could I rightly speak!—this, this I seek—
God, grant this of thy infinite strength, tho I am finite, weak.

II.

Oh, could I sing! . . .
From moments of deep insight could I bring
The vision back, and through inspired verse
The harmony rehearse—

In music to confine
The melody divine.
The beauty and the glory of all things,
The passion swallowing up the agony,
The rolling world that sings,
And at its inmost heart, God's harmony—

His throbbing rhythmic life in all:
In all our life, in Nature's life as well—
Nay, in what we call dead too He may dwell,
For what is death, but Life in thrall?

O glorious joy!—to feel within our life
The pulse of that great Force, unresting, rife
With ever new creation;
from above
To catch some living spark of that great Love
And know that love imperfect, dearly bought,
Is worth the price, and priceless . . .
with our thought
To grasp at infinite Truth, and miss the whole
Yet break off true-formed crystals—
till the soul
Sees all, through symbols . . . and in ecstasy
Of perfect moments lives Eternity.
Oh, could I catch this true world-rhythm, and sing
God grant it!—His sweet music at the heart of everything!

III.

Then should I be the poet—God's true seer,
His prophet, telling of himself to men!
A Milton, or a Goethe, sent again

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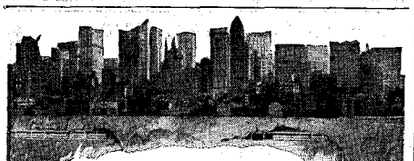

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Then, then once more should be exprest in full
What now we only feel—
Surpassing beauty, truth made beautiful . . .
O God, I humbly kneel . . .

Epilog.

Yet; if this highest part be not for me,
Oh, let the poet come, and let me be
His John the Baptist, to prepare his way . . .
Or if he may not come in this our day,
Too hard and faithless, only let me be
His Simeon, and prolong life's niggard lease
To see his face, and know that it is he,
To touch his forehead, and depart in peace.

The Merman and the Seraph.

BY WILLIAM BENJAMIN SMITH.

I.

Deep the sunless seas amid,
Far from Man, from Angel hid,
Where the soundless tides are rolled
Over Ocean's treasure-hold,
With dragon eye and heart of stone,
The ancient Merman mused alone.

II.

And ay his arrowed Thoughts he wings
Straight at the inmost core of things—
As mirrored in his Magic glass
The lightning-footed Ages pass,—
And knows nor joy nor Earth's distress,
But broods on Everlastingess.
"Thoughts that I ove not, thoughts that hat e not,
Thoughts that Age and Change awa:t not,
All unfeeling,
All revealing,
Scorning height's and depth's concealing,
These be mine—and these alone!"—
Saith the Merman's heart of stone.

III.

Flashed a radiance far and nigh
As from the vertex of the sky,—
Lo! a Maiden beauty-bright
And mantled with mysterious might
Of every power, below, above,
That weaves resistless spell of Love.

IV.

Through the weltering waters cold
Shot the sheen of silken gold;
Quick the frozen Heart below
Kindled in the amber glow;
Trembling Heavenward Nekkan yearned,
Rose to where the Glory burned.

"Deeper, bluer than the skies are,
Dreaming meres of morn thine eyes are:
All that brightens
Smile or heightens
Charm is thine, all life enlightens,
Thou art all the soul's desire"—
Sang the Merman's Heart of fire.

"Wo thee, Nekkan! Ne'er was given
Thee to walk the ways of heaven;
Vain the vision,
Fate's derision,
Thee that raps to realms elysian,
Fathomless profounds are thine"—
Quired the answering voice divine.

V.

Came an echo from the West,
Pierced the deep celestial breast;
Summoned, far the Seraph fled,
Trailing splendor overhead;
Broad beneath her flying feet,
Laughed the silvered ocean-street.

VI.

On the Merman's mortal sight
Instant fell the pall of Night;
Sunk to the sea's profoundest floor

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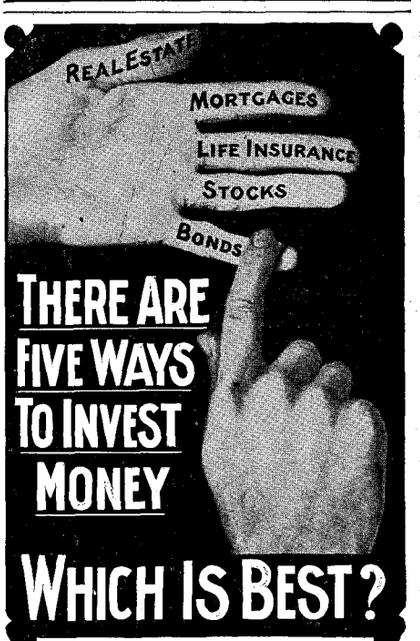

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He dreams the vanished Vision o'er,
Hears anew the starry chime,
Ponders ay Eternal Time.
"Thoughts that hope not, thoughts that fear not,
Thoughts that Man and Demon veer not,
Times unending
Comprehending,
Space and worlds of worlds transcending,
These are mine—but these alone!"—
Sighs the Merman's heart of stone.
—*From Poet Lore* (Autumn number).

PERSONAL.

Gen. Robert E. Lee.—The centenary of the birth of Gen. Robert E. Lee, which will be celebrated January 19, is discust editorially in the January *Outlook*, and a series of articles on the famous Confederate leader are published in the body of the same number. One of these, by E. V. Valentine, the sculptor, narrates some entertaining personal stories of the General. A few years after the war Mr. Valentine was commissioned to make a bust of Lee, and in the course of his labors he had opportunity to observe many of the General's characteristics. A part of his observations are here quoted:

The day of my arrival the General walked with me up into the town. Stopping at a store where he espied an acquaintance (Mr. Archibald Alexander), he said, "Mr. Archie, here is a young gentleman from Richmond who has come to make a bust of me. I wish you would sit for him."

All such jokes could but be reassuring to me, and I began to feel less dread at being closeted for days with this great man. . . . . .

After the sittings began we were in reality closeted. I had been requested by him not to allow any one to come into the room—"no one but Professor White and my son Custis," he said. That suited me exactly. Seeing the earnest manner in which I went to the work, he gave me every advantage. I carefully studied the face, and told him I would like to see his mouth. He knew what that meant, and I raised his mustache and took measurements of his lips. While the work was progressing he would from time to time entertain me with reminiscences and anecdotes. He seemed to be fond of speaking of his boyhood, swimming in the Potomac—of his teacher, Weir, at West Point, and of the Mexican War. I was also much interested in hearing his comments on persons and things of a more recent date.

I think from the beginning that the General must have seen that I was fond of humor. So I am, but it is very doubtful whether there was much levity about me when I approached for the first time this grand idol of the South. I had been told of his noble simplicity, of his gentle and kindly bearing, but I confess that I could never appreciate how these qualities could ever neutralize the inquietude which I felt until I was once in his company. He who poses for a bust or a portrait may be expected to look his best, or what at least may appear to him as his best. I could observe no difference in General Lee's manner when he was sitting for me from that which was his ordinary bearing. After I had made some progress with the work, he very quietly remarked, "They say Custis is like me. Let him come now and sit for you."

One day during the sittings he asked me if I knew a certain sculptress, and then began repeating, or trying to repeat, some syllables of the name. I knew whom he meant as soon as he asked me the question, but I let him shoot at the name two or three times before I called it, and on doing so he said: "Oh, that is the name! Well, the lady wrote me a very polite letter in which she asked if I would give her sittings for a bust, at the same time enclosing photographs of some of her works which were not too profusely draped. In her letter she also asked when she could come to make the bust, and a friend, who had been looking at the pictures, suggested July or August, as the most of her works seemed to have been done in the summer time." . . .

The General wore a colonel's uniform in the army.

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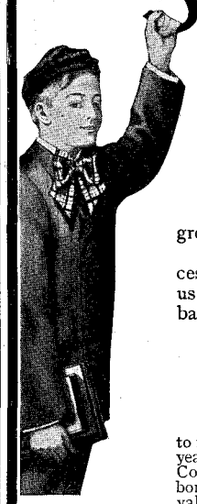

are unknown in the East and rare anywhere, but we have just secured a choice issue of **$75,000 Pine Bluff, Arkansas, 5% Semi-Annual $500 Bonds,** maturity one to twenty years, of which we shall sell $25,000 **at par,** holding the long maturities at 101. Legality approved by eminent counsel.

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There was scarcely any possibility of his ever being mistaken for an under officer, however, but on one occasion a subordinate seemed not to recognize him. It was a little captain, and I have the story from an old soldier who witnessed the incident. A road had been very badly blocked by wagons, and General Lee, seeing that it was impassable, rode up and ordered the said captain to have it cleared. With an oath, the little fellow refused to obey the command. The order was repeated, and again disobeyed. "General Lee orders you to remove those wagons!" said the commander. And no sooner had the name fallen upon the ears of the refractory captain than his shoulders fell upon the wheels of the wagons with all the strength he had. My informant, who had been highly amused at this scene between the Southern leader and his subaltern, stated that after the General had disappeared he approached the captain and asked him in a whisper, "Who's that old gem'man you was talkin' to jest now?"

The experience of an acquaintance of mine is another illustration of the humor of the general. When hostilities were about to begin, this gentleman, in great despondence, reported to the general that it would require some time for the old flint-lock "shooting-irons" of his company to be changed into percussion locks. He was in a dilemma, and the only way that the general could suggest to get him out of his difficulty was to "telegraph to Mr. Lincoln to have the war put off for three weeks." . . .

A few expressions of his which are so far probably unknown tell the story of his life, and I can not close without adding them:

THE TEST OF A TRUE GENTLEMAN.

The forbearing use of power does not only form a touchstone, but the manner in which an individual enjoys certain advantages over others is the test of a *true gentleman*.

The power which the strong have over the weak, the magistrate over the citizen, the employer over the employed, the educated over the unlettered, the experienced over the confiding, even the clever over the silly—the forbearing or inoffensive use of all this power or authority, or a total absence from it when the case admits it, will show the gentleman in plain light. The gentleman does not needlessly or unnecessarily remind an offender of a wrong he may have committed against him. He can not only forgive, he can forget; and he strives for that nobleness of self and mildness of character which impart sufficient strength to let the past be the past.

A true gentleman of honor feels humbled himself when he can not help humbling others.

To conclude, the whole is summed up in one single remark which I shall never forget. To those who have read that most entertaining book, "Four Years with Marse Robert," by the late Major Robert Stiles, the following sentence will be of interest. It forcibly indicates what General Lee thought "the best thing in the world." During the sittings I spoke of Major Stiles, or his cleverness, his culture, his bravery, and other attractive qualities, and the general added, "And, better than all, he is a Christian gentleman."

Retired.

The following verses were read at the recent Coghlan banquet, by Gen. Horatio C. King:

(Inscribed to Rear Admiral Jos. B. Coghlan, U. S. A.)

"Now, douse my glim," the bos'n said;
"And shiver my timbers thro',
'Fore I'll believe that Admiral Joe
Is actooally sixty-two.
By navy law I believe it's writ
That he's a nautical wreck—

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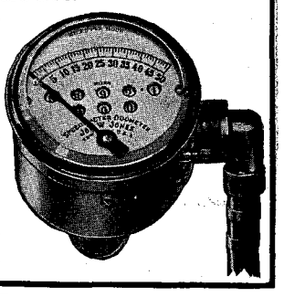

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Why, blow your eyes, he's just as spry
As the youngest kid on deck.

"I sailed the sea with him, my lads,
Way back in '62;
A sprightly youth and full of fun
As ever I've seen, or you;
'Tis forty years and four since then,
But time don't count by years;
He'll hold his own, sure, every time,
With the strongest of his peers.

"I saw him in Manila Bay,
On the *Raleigh*, don't you see,
When Dewey made the Dagoes kneel
To the flag of liberty;
He did his part most gallantly,
And when the sun went down
A diadem of richest worth
Shunted the Spanish crown.

"And now they say he's out of date
And not his royal self,
And all the state can do for him's
To lay him on the shelf;
But, lubbers all, I'll have my say,
And tell them swabs the truth,
That Adm'l Joe the secret has
Of most perpetual youth.

"So, here's to you, my Admiral,
With 'Hoch' and royal cheer,
And may you wear your nat'ral hair
Till you reach a hundred year;
And when old Time has lost his job,
I'll bet a keg of beer
That you'll be 'round to take his scythe
And start a new career."

MORE OR LESS PUNGENT.

Andy's Way.—"Mister, I have here two cents—"

"Ah, my good man, here is an equal amount."

"T'anks, Mr. Carnegie, t'anks."—*Houston Chronicle.*

Corn on the Cob.—STUBB—"There goes the Kentucky Colonel. He certainly loves his corn."

PENN—"I should say so. Why, he even rides a cob."—*Chicago News.*

Useless.—"Isidore, give something to that poor blind man."

"What's the use? He could not see who gave it him."—*Translated from* Meggendorfer Blaetter *for* THE LITERARY DIGEST.

Beauties of Editorial Gentleness.—The office-boy had pied the first page by dropping the form down two flights of stairs.

"I wish," murmured the gentle editor, "that you had broken the news more gently."—*Judge.*

"Where Ignorance is Bliss."—"You'll find there are no fish in that pond!"

"What did you tell us for? Now you've spoiled my day's fishing!"—*Translated from* Fliegende Blaetter *for* THE LITERARY DIGEST.

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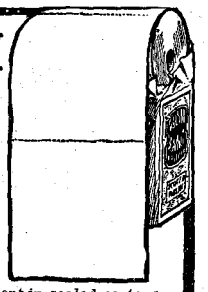

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The Hayes Asthma Method

¶ Asthma yields only temporarily to ordinary methods, and returns when they are stopped. No patent medicine, smoke, spray, or so-called specific is able to give more than temporary relief. They all sooner or later lose their power even to relieve. Change of climate may bring relief for a while, but every locality soon "wears out" for the individual patient.

¶ In 1878, P. Harold Hayes, M. D., originated his method of eliminating Asthma so completely that the symptoms would not return after relief measures were stopped, even though the patient subjected himself to exposures which previously brought on attacks.

¶ Since 1883 over 68,000 Asthma and Hay-Fever patients have engaged the services of the Asthmatics' Institute.

¶ The Hayes method requires a careful diagnosis of each patient, assigns him to the personal care of one of the Faculty, who receives weekly reports from him and writes special prescriptions for the medicines that may be required by the patient as indicated by each report. The medicines are all compounded in the Hayes Dispensary by the pharmacist in charge, Mr. Ernest B. Walker, Ph.G., according to these individual prescriptions, and forwarded to the patient.

¶ In this way the developments in each case are constantly watched and the medicines changed as needed to meet exactly the condition of the patient at all times in his progress toward permanent immunity from attacks.

¶ This method has proven so successful that many physicians who have had Asthma have placed themselves and their Asthma patients under the care of the Asthmatics' Institute.

¶ People of culture and wealth in all parts of the world, as well as those who must attend to their business or daily work, have had the cause of their Asthma and Hay-Fever so thoroughly eliminated that the attacks have never come back. The patients are free to pursue their wonted vocations without fear of relapse or renewed attacks, and without the necessity of continuing the use of medicines or any other relief measures.

THE ASTHMATICS' INSTITUTE
BUFFALO, N. Y.

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P. HAROLD HAYES, M. D.

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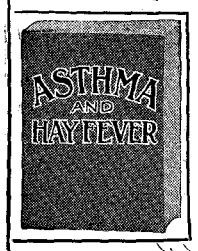
No medicines are ever sold to the public or to patients, either by mail, directly or indirectly, or in drug stores. The charges are for professional services only. All needed medicines are supplied.



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A pace with Science.—DOCTOR—"What? Troubled with sleeplessness? Eat something before going to bed."

PATIENT—"Why, doctor, you once told me never to eat anything before going to bed."

DOCTOR (with dignity)—"Pooh pooh! That was last January. Science has made enormous strides since then."—*Christian Register.*

Hot and Heavy.—"Nuwedd's wife gave it to him hot and heavy when he got home last night."

"Gracious! I thought they never had a word."

"I don't believe they ever did—this was one of her biscuits she gave him."—*Washington Times.*

The Poor Consumer.—"Going up!" cried Coal.

"Going down!" cried Ice.

The cars suddenly stopt, and a dead man was discovered wedged between them. He was a consumer.—*St. Louis Post-Dispatch.*

Realistic.—An art-school student recently painted a picture of a dog under a tree so life-like that it was impossible to distinguish the bark of the tree from that of the dog.—*Sacred Heart Review.*

Finding Out.—"Tommy, did you go to Mrs. Turner's as I told you to ask about her dressmaker?'"

"Yes, mother."

"And what did you find out?"

"Mrs. Turner."—*Chicago News.*

CURRENT EVENTS.

Foreign.

December 14.—The Belgian Chamber of Deputies votes for the annexation of the Kongo Free State.

Prince Gustav of Sweden assumes the regency during the illness of his father, King Oscar.

December 15.—Elections for a new German Reichstag are announced for January 25.

December 17.—It is reported that James Bryce has accepted the post of Ambassador from Great Britain to the United States.

Commanding officers of the Portsmouth (England) barracks are relieved of their command for not quelling the recent stokers, mutiny.

Moscow police discover a bomb factory in the Desareff Institute of Oriental Languages, and fifty terrorists are arrested.

The steamer *Victoria Luise*, in the West Indian service of the Hamburg-American Line, goes ashore off Port Royal. The passengers are all rescued and taken to Kingston, but the Captain shoots himself.

December 18.—Signor Tittoni, the Italian Foreign Minister, in a speech before the Chamber of Deputies, expresses the Government's intention to hold firmly to the Triple Alliance, and gives assurance of a cordial understanding with Austria.

The Imperial Bank of Germany raises its rate of discount from six to seven per cent.

December 19.—Manitoba votes by a large majority for public ownership of telephones.

Official advices say that 15,000,000 Chinese are affected by the famine in Kiangsu province.

December 20.—The Education bill is formally withdrawn by the Government in the House of

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